SUNDAY
May 11, 2025

BENGALURU
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THE HUDDLE

Regionalism in new world order

Former Sri Lankan leader Wickremesinghe moots idea of India leading South Asia

FULL COVERAGE » PAGES 8 & 9

'Monsoon likely to reach Kerala on May 27'

NEWS » PAGE 11

Pope Leo XIV, the bridge-building pontiff

PROFILES » PAGE 17

IPL likely to restart before next weekend

SPORT » PAGE 19

Peace deal struck, but Pak. violations persist

- India, Pakistan reach 'understanding' about stopping 'military action, firing': Jaishankar
- Outreach for pause in firing was made by Pakistan on Saturday afternoon, says Foreign Secretary Misri
- Pakistan 'breaches' understanding hours later, Misri calls for seriousness from the neighbour

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

After three days of intense military hostilities, India and Pakistan have reached an "understanding" about stopping "military action" and "firing", External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announced on Saturday.

Official sources said the decision to stop military actions was bilaterally agreed between India and Pakistan and that the initiation of this "understanding" would not affect the recent punitive decisions that India has taken targeting Pakistan after the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22.

However, cross-border firing was reported in the evening at some locations along the International Border in Jammu, while explosions were heard in Srinagar. In a late night press meeting, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Pakistan committed "repeated violations" of the "understanding" on Saturday, adding that the Indian armed forces were given instructions to "deal strongly" with the situation.

"We call upon Pakistan to take appropriate steps to address these violations and deal with the situation with seriousness and responsibility," said Mr. Misri, who described these violations as a "breach" of the "understanding".

Earlier, Mr. Jaishankar said, "India and Pakistan have today worked out an understanding on stoppage of firing and military action. India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so." The declaration was followed by an official briefing by Mr. Misri, who said the outreach for pausing the firing was made by the Pakistani side on Saturday afternoon.

"The Director-General of Military Operations of Pakistan called the Director-General of Military Operations of India at 1535 hours [3.35 p.m. IST]. It was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours [5 p.m.] today. Instructions have been given on both sides to give effect to the understanding," Mr. Misri said.

"The Directors-General of Military Operations will talk again on the 12th of May at 1200 hours," Mr. Misri said, indicating that the two sides will review the pause during the meeting on Monday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, officials indicated that the announcement is at a trial stage as it comes against the backdrop of an intense phase of hostilities and it remains to be seen if it holds on the ground.

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'NO MEDIATION'
» PAGE 12

Border flare-up

A timeline of rising tensions between India and Pakistan

April 22 : Deadly terror attack in Pahalgam leaves 26 people dead

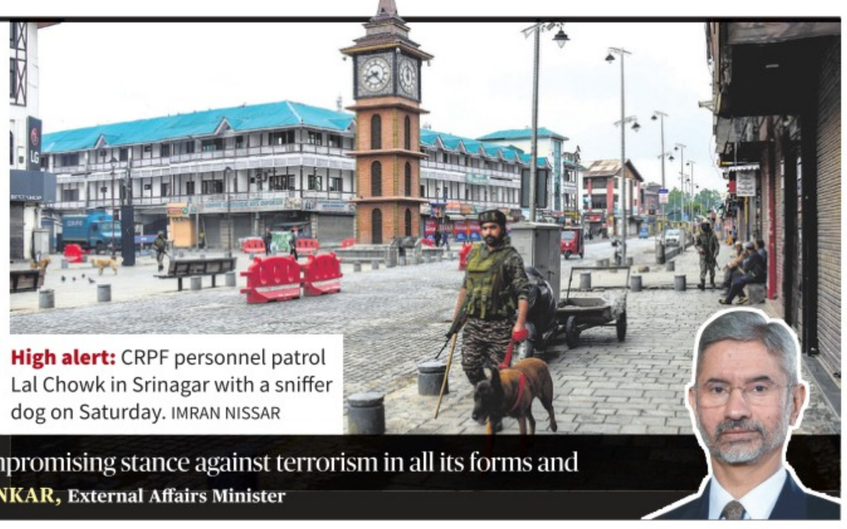
April 23-24: India takes diplomatic measures against Pakistan, including placing the Indus Waters Treaty 'in abeyance' and revocation of visas to Pakistan citizens

May 3: India announces freeze on imports of goods 'originating in or exported by Pakistan', suspends all postal links with Pakistan, and closes ports to Pakistani ships

May 7: Operation Sindoor targets 9 terror-linked facilities in Pakistan

May 7-10: Intense hostilities along the LoC and International Border with military incidents in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Gujarat

May 10: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar announces 'understanding' to stop firing and military activities



High alert: CRPF personnel patrol Lal Chowk in Srinagar with a sniffer dog on Saturday. IMRAN NISSAR

> India has consistently maintained a firm and uncompromising stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. It will continue to do so – S. JAISHANKAR, External Affairs Minister

Explosions heard in Srinagar, says Omar Abdullah

Explosions were heard in Srinagar on Saturday night, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said in a post on X hours after an 'understanding' for peace was reached. "This is no ceasefire. The air defence units in the middle of Srinagar just opened up," he said in another post with a video of objects in sky and loud blasts being heard in the background.

NEARBY

Toll collection on NH stretch upsets many

BENGALURU
The NHAI began collecting toll on the Bengaluru-Kanakapura road from Friday even as the service road construction remains incomplete, catching commuters and local residents off guard. » PAGE 2

Govt. to cut fees for some engg. courses

BENGALURU
The government has decided to reduce the fees for engineering courses with low enrolment in government and aided engineering colleges, to attract students. » PAGE 4

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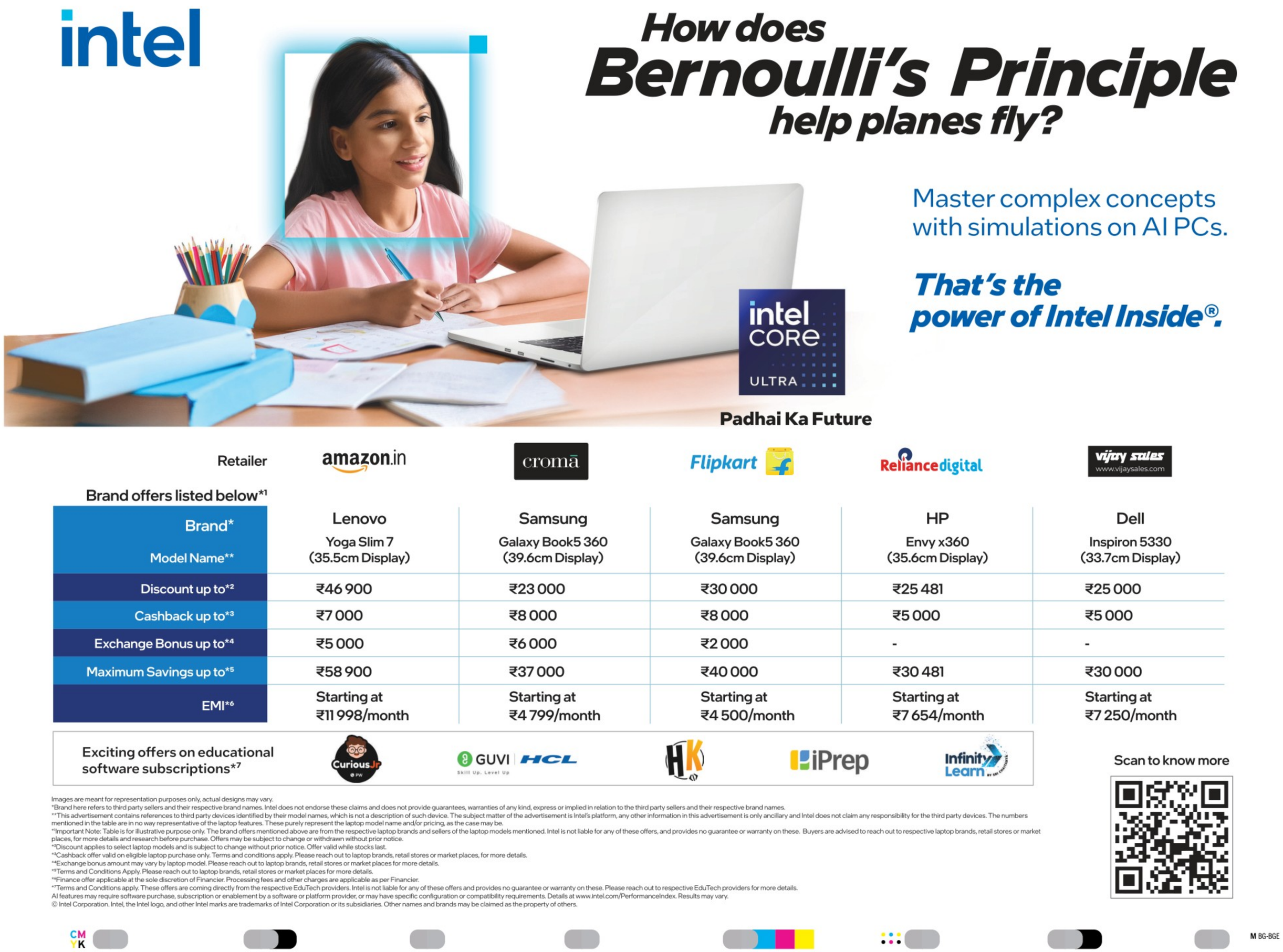
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES



Piercing look: A girl from the Dongria Kondh tribal group of the Niyamgiri Hills of Odisha has traditional nose pins on. It is common for women of the community to wear three nose-rings.

Colours of life: Showcasing the tribal community's love for ornaments, a woman flaunts her traditional metal nose pins, earrings, bangles, necklaces and other colourful accessories on her hair, neck and hand.

Shaking a leg: Young women from the tribal group, clad in traditional wear and accessories, dance to drumbeats during a festival near the Niyamgiri hills of Odisha.

Guardians of the green

The Dongria Kondh tribal people of Odisha are as assertive in demonstrating their identity as they famously were in protecting the Niyamgiri Hills from mining giant Vedanta

K.R Deepak
deepak.kr@thehindu.co.in

In the Niyamgiri Hills of Odisha, the indigenous tribe of Dongria Kondh lives in quiet harmony with nature, preserving ancient traditions, worshipping mountain spirits and nurturing the land.

Known as worshippers of Niyam Raja, the supreme deity who resides in these verdant hills, the Dongria Kondh live in scattered hamlets nestled amidst thick forests and terraced slopes. Traditionally agrarian, they practise *podu* cultivation, a centuries-old shifting form of farming where forest patches are cleared and burned to plant millets, pineapple, turmeric and seasonal vegetables. Life here follows the rhythm of nature and ancestral wisdom passed through generations.

Their attire is as distinctive as their culture. The Dongria women are strikingly adorned, their attire is minimal yet symbolic. A single piece of cloth wrapped around the body, once worn without blouses, reflects a deep-rooted cultural ethos. While many elders still adhere to this, younger women increasingly wear stitched blouses, mirroring the subtle seepage of urban influences. Yet, their fierce love for adornment remains unchanged. Metallic nose pins, often several at once, dot the faces of even young girls, while women wear rows of earrings along the length of their ears, their foreheads often marked with distinctive permanent tattoos. The men, equally striking, wear colourful turbans and a simple loincloth, some decorating their bodies with traditional tattoos. These accessories are expressions of identity and reverence for their ancestors.

The Dongria Kondh speak Kui, an ancient Dravidian language, and preserve their heritage through oral narratives, songs, and dances.

In a historic battle to save their hills, the Dongria Kondh rose in defiance against Vedanta Resources, a mining giant that sought to extract bauxite from the Niyamgiri range. Their resistance became a global symbol of indigenous rights.

Backed by activists and legal advocates, the community took their fight to the Supreme Court, which in 2013 upheld their right to decide the fate of their land. In a series of landmark village council meetings, the Dongria unanimously rejected the project, a rare victory of grassroots power over corporate might.

Smartphones have made their way into these remote hills, capturing tribal festivals and connecting youth with the outside world. But amid the changing winds, the Dongria Kondh continue to guard their forests and faith, living on the edge of modernity without letting it blur the contours of their unique identity.

Shared interests: The women help each other in dressing up before a festival.

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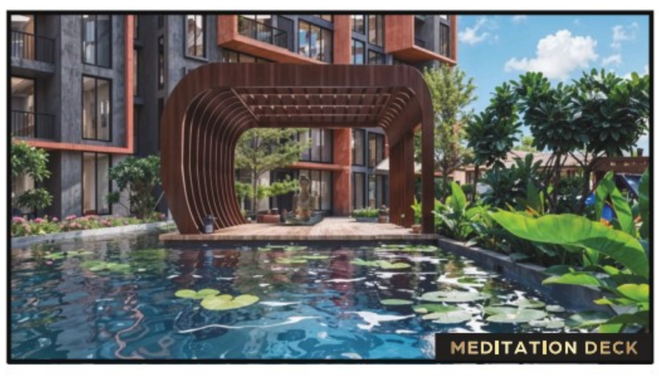
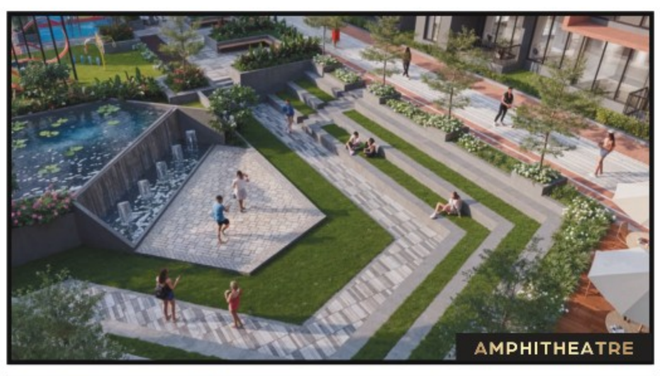
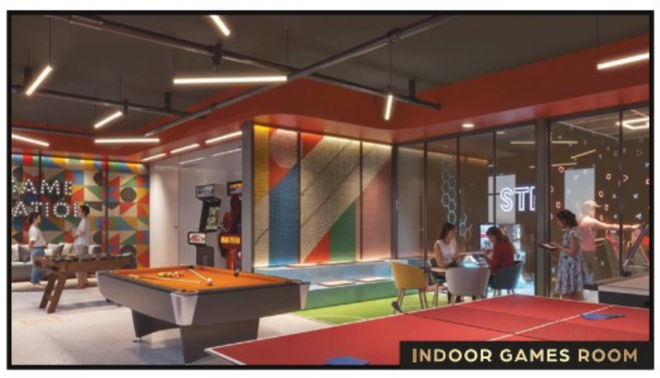
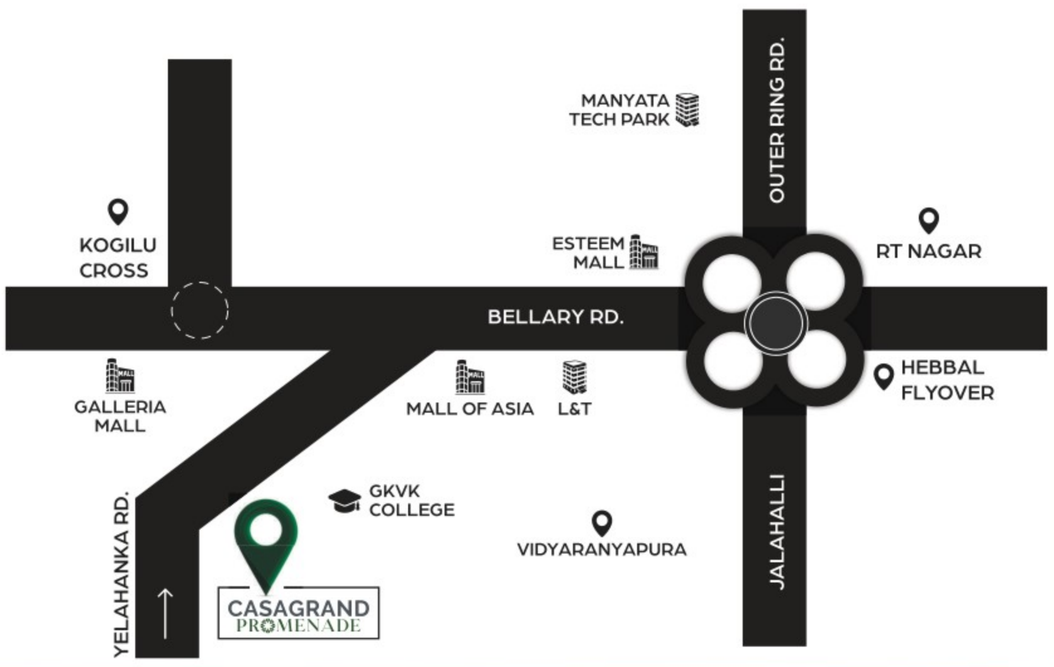






Location Route Map



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BDA's first villa project receives good response

More than half of 239 units booked; authority, however, decides not to take up more such projects

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Punith Rajkumar Housing Complex, the first-ever villa project by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) at Hunnigere, in Dasanapura hobli between Magadi Road and Tumakuru Road, has got a good response with more than half of the units already being booked. This is in contrast to a large unsold inventory of flats in apartment complexes the authority has built.

The BDA, however, has decided to not take up more villa projects and instead focus on building more affordable apartments.

A villa built by the BDA at Hunnigere, between Magadi Road and Tumakuru Road.

BDA housing complex

Villa type	Area	Number of units	Price per unit (in ₹crore)
4 BHK	1,844 sq. ft	121 units	₹1.26 crore
3 BHK	1,738 sq. ft	16 units	₹1.15 crore
3 BHK	1,269 sq. ft	102 units	₹90 lakh
1 BHK (flats for LIG)	414 sq. ft	320 units	₹14 lakh

Mela held

Of the 239 villas, over 100 of them were booked at a mela organised by the BDA last week. "We got a very good response for the villa project, despite being on the outskirts of the city. The villas, duplex houses with three and four bedrooms, are very competitively priced in today's market, probably prompting the high demand," BDA Commissioner N. Jayaram said.

The project has 239 villas – 121 units of 4 BHK villas that cost ₹1.26 crore a unit and 118 units of 3 BHK villas of two dimensions costing ₹1.15 crore and ₹90 lakh each. The project also has an apartment complex with 1 BHK flats for economically weaker sections at ₹14 lakh.

"This is more of a township than just a group housing project. It has 29 parks, playgrounds, including cricket and basketball stadiums, a 600 kl/day sewage treatment plant, separate sumps for drinking and non-drinking water, an overhead tank, a water pump for each house, a club house, and a cafeteria. Like other group housing projects, a monthly maintenance charge will be charged," said a senior BDA officer.

A costly affair

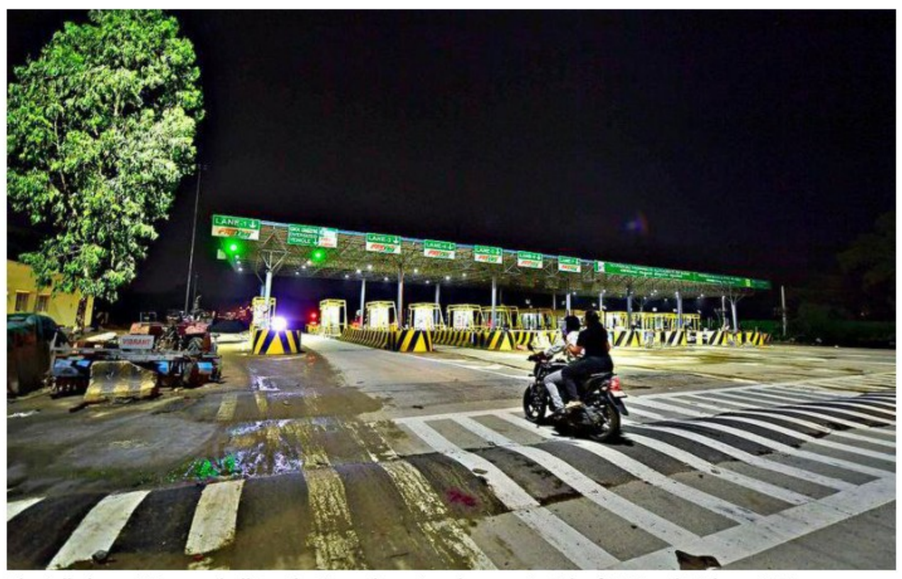
However, despite the good response, the BDA is not keen on taking up more villa projects. "The villa project needs more land. In this case, we got the land at a cheap cost. But acquiring big parcels of land closer to the city is increasingly becoming a costly affair. In that case, we will not be able to provide villas at an affordable price even for the middle class. So we have decided to instead focus on providing housing for the poor and lower middle class with apartment complexes, which need less land," Mr. Jayaram said.

When quizzed about the lack of a good response for flats, he said the demand for flats was also picking up. "Of the 3,000 flats, we have till now sold nearly 1,500 units and we are confident of selling the rest," he said.

Many upset as toll collection begins on NH stretch linking city to Kanakapura

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) began collecting toll on the Bengaluru-Kanakapura road from Friday even as the service road construction remains incomplete, catching commuters and local residents off guard.



The toll plaza at Somanahalli on the Bengaluru-Kanakapura stretch of National Highway 209.
K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Toll rates at Somanahalli plaza

Vehicle type	One-way	Round trip
Cars, jeeps, other light motor vehicles	85	130
Mini-buses, light goods vehicles	140	205
Lorries, buses	290	435
Three-axle commercial vehicles	315	475
Vehicles with 4 to 6 axles	455	680
Vehicles with seven+ axles	555	830

Key stretch

The NHAI is upgrading the NH 209 corridor, an important stretch connecting Bengaluru to Dindigul in Tamil Nadu, into a double-lane road. The project, which passes through Kanakapura, Malavalli, Kollegal, Chamarajanagar, and Punjur, is far from complete, especially in areas close to Bengaluru's southern outskirts.

Residents in villages such as Kaggalipura, Somanahalli, Tharalu, and Nelaguli, situated close to the new toll plaza, have voiced their objections to the NHAI's decision. Locals have urged the authority to construct a 6-km service road on either side of the toll gate to connect Bengaluru and Kanakapura, so that they can bypass the toll and continue daily travel without paying the toll.

They have also stressed the importance of completing the four-laning of the highway, which has been progressing in phases.

Pruthviraj K., a resident who travelled along the route on Friday, was surprised to see the toll collection. "It is not justifiable to demand money when basic infrastructure like service roads isn't ready. The NHAI should either provide a free pass to local motorists or expedite the service road construction within a 6-km stretch on both sides of the toll plaza. Daily commuters like us are being unfairly penalised," he said.

> It is not justifiable to demand money when basic infrastructure like service road isn't ready. The NHAI should either provide a free pass to local motorists or expedite the service road construction within a 6-km stretch on both sides of the toll plaza.
>
> **PRUTHVIRAJ K.,** a local resident

'Improve existing road'

Meanwhile, residents are calling for improvements to the road connecting Gandhinagar to Kaggalipura. Their demands include proper drainage systems, footpaths, and pedestrian safety infrastructure before any toll collection can be considered valid.

Prashanth Hosadurga, a member of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, accused the NHAI of bypassing public consultation. "The toll was imposed without informing us. Local commercial and non-commercial vehicles operating within a 20-km radius should be exempted from these charges," he said.

Alternative road

Many motorists have been using the Kanakapura-Malavalli route as an alternative to the Bengaluru-Mysuru access-controlled highway, where tolls are collected. With both corridors now tolled, commuters feel cornered.

Srikanth R., a frequent commuter from J.P. Nagar to Mysuru, said, "We switched to the Kanakapura road to avoid the heavy toll and unpredictable traffic, especially on weekends, on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. Now this road is also tolled, and worse, there's no proper alternative or even a finished service road. It's like being forced to pay for a half-finished product. Infrastructure should come before tolls, not the other way around."

The Hindu tried to contact NHAI officials, but received no response.

Vegetable prices soar but quality dips

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a brief period of stability, the prices of vegetables have gone up again due to limited supply in the market because of the weather. The prices of daily-use vegetables, especially beans, have almost doubled in the last two to three weeks.

While the prices of carrots, capsicum, cucumber, and other vegetables have gone up more in retail markets, that of beans has gone up both in retail and wholesale markets. It is selling at ₹80 to ₹90 a kg in wholesale markets and ₹110 to ₹125 in retail markets.

"As it is summer and water availability is less than the usual, vegetable arrivals have dropped at the markets. The stock of beans is lesser than that of other vegetables," said Muniyappa, a vegetable trader from Kalasipalya market.

Prices of some vegetables that are not typical summer crops have also seen a sharp increase. For instance, cucumber is selling at ₹40 to ₹45 a kg in retail markets and HOPCOMS, while chow chow is selling at about ₹50 to ₹60 a kg. "The arrivals of these vegetables are generally less in summer, and because of this, there has been some fluctuation in the prices. Moreover, farmers in Karnataka do not stick to one vegetable crop. They change their crops according to which one is more profitable and cultivable in that period. Once this cycle is over and the next harvest cycle starts, then the prices will stabilise," said the manager of a HOPCOMS stall in the central business district.

Prices of some vegetables that are not typical summer crops have also seen a sharp increase. FILE PHOTO

> As it is summer and water availability is less than the usual, vegetable arrivals have dropped at the markets.
>
> **MUNIYAPPA,** vegetable trader from Kalasipalya market

Carrot is selling at ₹60 to ₹65 a kg, capsicum at ₹40 to ₹50, brinjal at ₹40 to ₹45, ladies' fingers at ₹35 to ₹40, potato at ₹38 to ₹40 and knol khol at ₹80 to ₹90 a kg in retail and online markets. Retail vendors also attributed the price rise to less availability in the market. "As vegetables rot quickly owing to the heat, we have to pick the best ones from wholesale markets and get them. But the best quality items are not amply available," said Chandrashekhar, a retail vegetable vendor at Yelahanka.

Prices in city

Vegetable	Price (₹ per kg)
Beans	110 - 125
Carrot	60 - 65
Capsicum	40 - 50
Potato	38 - 40
Chow chow	50 - 60
Knol khol	80 - 90
Cucumber	40 - 45
Brinjal	40 - 45
Ladies' fingers	35 - 40

Quality woes

Despite paying higher prices for vegetables, consumers say the quality has been poor in the last couple of weeks. "From tomato to brinjal and even chow chow, the quality has been poor. If we chop three of these vegetables, at least one goes to waste as it would have gone bad. Due to high temperature, even if we keep vegetables in the fridge for more than one day, the quality deteriorates," said Sukrutha. S.J., a resident of Rajajinagar.

IT firm employee bludgeoned to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police are searching for the accused, who is the victim's friend

A 28-year-old IT firm employee was bludgeoned to death allegedly by his friend in an inebriated state on the terrace of their house at Madiwala on Friday night.

The deceased, Martin Simon, a resident of Venkateshwara Layout, was living in an apartment with his family. The accused, who was also living in the same building, was his friend. The duo, according to the police, went to the terrace for a weekend party.

The police suspect that an argument ensued over a trivial row, following which the accused, identified as Raj, allegedly picked up a cement block lying around and attacked Simon, killing him on the spot. He fled the scene after throwing the blood-stained block near the body.

The murder came to light when some residents went to the terrace later in the night. Based on a complaint, the police have registered a case of murder and are on the lookout for the accused. Sarah Fathima, DCP, South-east division, said the exact motive for the murder can be ascertained only after the arrest of the accused.

Student killed after being hit by train

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old BTech student was killed after being hit by a train between Carmelaram and Byappanahalli railway stations on Friday.

The deceased, Sundapalli Sai Mahesh, was returning after delivering a parcel. Mahesh had attended an interview at a private company in the city and was waiting for the result. In the meanwhile, he joined a company as a delivery executive 10 days ago. On Friday night, he went to deliver a parcel and was returning to his bike parked on the other side of the railway tracks. While walking on the slope close to the tracks, he lost control and fell and was hit by a train. Mahesh was thrown up in the air and crashed 100 m away. He died on the spot, the police said.

The loco pilot alerted the Byappanahalli railway police who rushed to the spot and shifted the body.

Mahesh, according to the police, lost his father while he was studying pre-university. He is survived by his mother and a younger brother who is studying in a village in Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, the police said. Mahesh was scheduled to attend another interview on Saturday, the police said, quoting a family member who had come to receive his body.

BIS hosts workshop on quality control orders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru Branch Laboratory, organised a workshop on Friday focusing on 'Quality control orders (QCOs) and the role of laboratories in their implementation'. The event was aimed at strengthening the quality ecosystem in India and enhancing awareness around QCOs among stakeholders.

R. Mohanram, chief quality assurance officer from the Chief Quality Assurance Establishment (Warship Equipment), Bengaluru, was the chief guest. In his address, he emphasised the critical role laboratories play in ensuring compliance with the QCOs. He underlined how the QCOs contribute to the safety, reliability, and sustainability of consumer goods by mandating quality certification.

The workshop included a presentation by Jayachandra Babu, joint director, BIS, who spoke about the need for expanded laboratory infrastructure across the country. He detailed the BIS's certification schemes and highlighted new product categories that will soon require mandatory certification.

Black spots at Padmanabhanagar raise health concerns

Vyas Ponnuri
Mathew William
BENGALURU

In the vicinity of a garbage transfer station near Padmanabhanagar lie black spots that are not only an eyesore, but also give off a strong, unbearable smell. These unofficial garbage dumps, located on both sides of a busy street, are almost overflowing with trash. Rats can be seen running through the piles of waste, right across from where the area's garbage lorries are usually parked.

Garbage dumped on a vacant site at Padmanabhanagar in Bengaluru.

Repeated complaints

This has become a serious issue for people who live and work near the 18th Main Road. Residents have repeatedly complained to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) about the bad smell and health risks. "You can't even walk here when it rains –the garbage flows onto the road," said Sundaramma, a local worker. Another resident said she wears a mask every time she passes by because of the unbearable stench.

Many affected

Local businesses such as fruit stalls, repair shops, and restaurants are also affected. "What smell is this?" asked Jayanth, a waiter at a nearby restaurant. "Customers look around before they eat. They wonder how they can eat in a place like this," he said, pointing to the tall tables set up just a few feet away from the trash pile.

Laxman M., a resident, said the empty site, which is illegally being used for dumping, can be turned into a playground for children as there is no playground in the vicinity.

What makes it worse is that this garbage dump is right across from the parked garbage lorries – vehicles meant to remove waste– raising questions about the system's effectiveness. The contractors park the vehicles here as it is a dedicated space for transferring waste from auto-tippers to compactors. The compactors transport the garbage to a landfill located at Mittaganahalli.

'Will be cleared'

A senior BBMP official told *The Hindu* that several areas near such transfer stations have turned into black spots and they would be cleared.

KSRTC cracks down on ticket-less travel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) conducted a drive against ticket-less travel in April, inspecting buses operating within Karnataka and in neighbouring States.

According to an official release, the KSRTC checked 43,244 buses, detected 3,882 cases of pilferage, and penalised 3,780 passengers. KSRTC officials collected a total fine of ₹7,32,495 during the drive.

Deft climber: A tribal girl standing by a hill where *podu* cultivation was done near the Niyamgiri range of Odisha.

Traditional vibes: Two women of the particularly vulnerable tribal group Dongria Kondh sitting outside their homes.

Drift from the past: The attire of the Dongria Kondh women is slowly becoming more mainstream due to influence from the urban areas nearby.

Old and new: Dongria Kondh women check their mobile phones after dressing up in traditional attire for a village festival.

One for the album: A mother, with her child, clicks a selfie on a smartphone, reflecting the changing times in the tribal heartland.

New lifetime tax on commercial vehicles draws criticism from small operators

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Under the new rules, taxis priced less than ₹10 lakh now attract a lifetime tax of 5% of the vehicle's cost, payable in full at the time of registration. FILE PHOTO

The State government began enforcing the Karnataka Motor Vehicle Taxation (Amendment) Act on May 1, bringing significant changes to the way commercial vehicles are taxed in the State. Under the new rules, taxis priced less than ₹10 lakh now attract a lifetime tax of 5% of the vehicle's cost, payable in full at the time of registration.

Until now, commercial taxis in this price segment were exempt from lifetime tax and instead paid a quarterly tax of ₹100 per seat for a four-seater vehicle – amounting to roughly ₹1,800 annually, including cess. The updated policy replaces this quarterly system with a one-time payment, which many operators say will hit small business owners the hardest.

"This change will impact micro-level operators much more than large fleet owners," said K. Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association. "For a vehicle costing ₹10 lakh, the lifetime tax now amounts to around ₹50,000 upfront. Most commercial vehicles fall under this category, so it's going to be a major setback for small operators."

The revised tax slabs go further for vehicles in higher price brackets. Buyers of commercial vehicles priced between ₹10 lakh and ₹15 lakh must now pay 9% of the vehicle's cost as lifetime tax, while those purchasing vehicles above ₹15 lakh will be taxed at 15%. Even electric vehicles, which were previously exempt if they cost more than ₹25 lakh, will now attract a 10% tax under the new structure.

Mr. Holla criticised the move to include electric vehicles in the tax net, saying: "Karnataka already lags behind in EV adoption. Imposing new taxes on commercial e-vehicles at this stage will discourage drivers from switching to cleaner alternatives."

Ravi S., a cab driver who owns a single vehicle, expressed his frustration: "I've been planning to replace my old car this year, but the new rule means I need to pay ₹50,000 extra right away. For drivers like me, that's just not affordable. It's like the government wants to make it harder for small players to survive."

KASSIA to host power sector meeting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Small-Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) will host a meeting on Monday at 4 p.m. in its Board Room, 17th Cross, Magadi-Chord Road, Vijayanagar, here.

The meeting, to be presided over by KASSIA president M.G. Rajagopal, will feature key power sector leaders such as managing director of Bescom Shiva Shankar N.; chairman of the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission P. Ravi Kumar; managing director of KPTCL Pankaj Kumar Pandey, and KERC members Jawaid Akhtar and H.K. Jagadeesh.

The meeting will address energy-related issues faced by small industries and foster collaboration between regulatory bodies and industrial stakeholders.

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ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ. ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಪಾಲಿಟೆಕ್ನಿಕ್ (ಡಿಪ್ಲೋಮಾ) ಪ್ರವೇಶಾತಿ 2025-26
ಎಸ್‌ಎಸ್‌ಎಲ್‌ಸಿ ಉತ್ತೀರ್ಣರಾದವರಿಗೆ ಸುವರ್ಣಾವಕಾಶ
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• ಉದ್ಯಮಗಳಿಗೆ ಪೂರಕವಾದ ಪಠ್ಯಕ್ರಮ.
• ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಪಾಲಿಟೆಕ್ನಿಕ್ ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್ ಕ್ಲಾಸ್ ರೂಂಗಳು.
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• ಕಲಿಕೆಯ ಜೊತೆಗೆ Industrial visit, Internship
• ಉದಯೋನ್ಮುಖ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೈಪುಣ್ಯತೆ.
• ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಮುಗಿದ ತಕ್ಷಣ ಉದ್ಯೋಗ.
• 19 ನೇ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ಉದ್ಯಮಿಯಾಗುವ ಅವಕಾಶ.
• ಲ್ಯಾಟರಲ್ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಬಯಸಿದ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಕೋರ್ಸಿನ ಎರಡನೇ ವರ್ಷಕ್ಕೆ ನೇರ ಪ್ರವೇಶ.
ಡಾ.ಎಂ. ಸಿ. ಸುಧಾಕರ್
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https://dtek.karnataka.gov.in/
ನುರಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಅನುಭವಿ ಉಪನ್ಯಾಸಕರು । ಅತ್ಯುತ್ತಮ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಪ್ರಯೋಗಾಲಯಗಳು
ಸಕಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯಗಳ ಹಾಸ್ಟೆಲ್ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥೆ । Internship ಹಾಗೂ
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Elephant found dead

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A wild tusker was found dead at Sullakki in Sakleshpur taluk on Saturday morning. The residents of the village found the carcass and informed the Forest Department. The officers reached the spot, and veterinarians conducted a post-mortem later in the day.

Sourabh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Hassan, told *The Hindu* that the pachyderm was suspected to have died of electrocution. It came into contact with the live wire. "We will probe the death and book a case. The electrical inspector will also prepare a report on the incident," he said.

Many parts of the Hassan district are facing human-elephant conflict. People have died in elephant attacks, and the Forest Department is conducting an operation to capture trouble-causing elephants.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 11	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:37
RISE 17:36	SET 04:42
MONDAY, MAY. 12	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 18:25	SET 05:21
TUESDAY, MAY. 13	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:37
RISE 19:17	SET 06:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	35	19
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Fee for engineering courses with low enrolment to be cut in govt., aided colleges

The move will not only benefit students but also increase intake, says Minister Sudhakar

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to reduce the fees for civil, mechanical, automobile, and other engineering courses with low enrolment in government and aided engineering colleges, to attract students.

The issue was raised in a recent meeting chaired by Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar with private engineering college managements. Private engineering colleges agreeing to charge lower fees specified in the consensual agreement with the government have been instructed to inform the government before the option entry round of the Common Entrance Test (CET) counselling.

Due to lack of job opportunities and the popularity of computer-related engineering courses, basic engineering courses such as civil, mechanical, electrical, and automobile are losing sheen over the years.

The number of students enrolling in these courses has fallen, and many private colleges have stopped the courses. In 2024-25, out of the total 5,723 government quota civil engineering seats, only 2,883 were filled. Out of the total 5,977 mechanical engineering seats, only 2,783 seats were filled. However, out of the total 18,794 computer science seats available, 18,157 were filled, leaving only 637 seats vacant.

A file photo of students and parents at the Karnataka Examinations Authority office in Bengaluru for document verification.

Govt. quota engineering seats in 2024

Branch	Available	Allotted	Vacant
Civil	5,723	2,883	2,840
Mechanical	5,977	2,783	3,194
Computer Science	18,794	18,157	637

"Civil, mechanical, electrical, automobile and other courses are basic courses of engineering, and these need to be retained. Due to various reasons, students are not enrolling in these courses in large numbers. In addition, it has come to the notice of the government that some students, even though they want to enrol, are being deprived of the courses as they are unable to pay the prescribed fee. Currently, the annual fee in government engineering colleges is ₹48,000, and a further reduction is being considered. This will not only benefit students but also increase enrolment. This issue is still under discussion and a final decision has not been taken yet," said Dr. Sudhakar.

"If private engineering colleges agree to reduce the fee for specified courses with low enrolment, it is mandatory to display that fee structure on the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) portal. The colleges have been told to decide on this before the option entry round of the CET counseling," the Minister said.

Extended round
The government has decided to fill all government quota seats in private engineering colleges through the KEA this year and has decided to conduct an extended round of counselling till the last date of engineering admissions scheduled by the All-India Council for Technical Education.

"Previously, all the government quota seats remaining unfilled after the mop-up round were surrendered to private colleges. These seats were converted into management quota seats, and the respective colleges used to fill them. However, last year, since not all the seats were filled, the college managements returned thousands of seats to the KEA and requested that they be filled. In this context, this year, an extended round of counselling will be conducted, and all the seats will be filled through the KEA. Then, 10 days before the AICTE deadline for admissions, we will surrender the remaining seats to the colleges. Those seats will be converted into management quota seats and the colleges will fill them," Dr. Sudhakar said.

COMEDK UGET held successfully with 86.51% attendance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

COMEDK UGET, which is the gateway for admissions to approximately 20,000 engineering seats in about 150 engineering colleges of Karnataka, was held on Saturday with 86.51% attendance across the country.

The Undergraduate Entrance Test was held in three sessions in online mode. According to the Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (COMEDK), the total number of candidates who attended the exam is 1,08,668 out of the 1,25,607 who had registered. In Karnataka, the number of candidates who attended was 37,922 out of the 42,263 registered, whereas the number of candidates who attended the test in Bengaluru was 18,977 out of the 21,230 registered.

166 cities
The examination was conducted in 166 cities across India and 24 cities in Karnataka. In the wake of Operation Sindoor, the entrance test was postponed in 13 centres in States along the India-Pakistan border. In all, the test was conducted in 235 centres across India, including 70 in Karnataka and 34 in Bengaluru.

Postponed
"Among these 235 centres, the third session was postponed in 11 centres and the test here will be conducted along with the 13 centres where the exam was already postponed," said a press release.

Power outage
One centre in Bengaluru had a power outage, and candidates were compensated by providing extra time to complete the exam. "The provisional answer keys will be notified after the conduct of the test at the centres where it was postponed. The final answer key and the rank cards will be made available after the conduct of the test in all the centres," it stated.

Student booked for pro-Pak. post

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Vijayapura police have registered a case against a dental college student on the charge of posting a pro-Pakistan and against India's interest message on social media. Sub-inspector of police Vinod Dodamani has filed a *suo motu* case against Tashahud Farooqui Sheikh, a BDS student of Al Ameen College, for her social media message.

He was prompted to see her message after a Facebook page 'Veeru Kichhu in Karnataka' that said that there are several Pakistan lovers in Vijayapura. He accused her of posting a message to disturb India's unity and sovereignty.

The student, however, apologised later. She said: "I truly apologise with my heart to all who have been offended. I am a true Indian by heart. I love my nation and it is my motherland. I was born and brought up in India with all the Indian values. The comment I made is an act of foolishness. Again, I truly apologise to all. In future, I will make sure that I will never commit a similar mistake. Jai Hind."

Call for special prayers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In response to the recent events, including the election of Pope Leo XIV, the tragic loss of lives in the Pahalgam terror attacks, and the success of Operation Sindoor, Archbishop Peter Machado has called for special prayers across all parishes in Bengaluru on Sunday.

AIIPA conference in June

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The All India Insurance Pensioners' Association (AIIPA) will be holding its 9th general conference from June 2 to 4 in Mysuru, in connection with which it conducted a seminar here on Saturday.

The organisers said that this is a prelude to the three-day conference, and the association has undertaken a campaign in support of its demand for universal pension as a social security.

The seminar was a prelude to and part of the nationwide campaign in support of their demand, and senior office-bearers of the AIIPA said that the existing pension schemes covering both the Central and the State government employees and those in the public and private sectors were contributory in nature and were contributory pension schemes.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. HE-03-2025-26
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

SL	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for 02 Nos Escalators at PF No. 2/3 and PF No. 4/5 of Hubballi Railway Station for 05 years.	Rs.31,91,052.00
2	Annual Comprehensive Maintenance Contract for static AC's at Zonal Office & Central Hospital/Hubballi for the period 2 years.	Rs. 18,66,026.24
3	Provision of Occupancy sensors as improved power saving measures at Rail Soudha and Division office at Hubballi.	Rs. 16,81,900.00
4	Replacement of existing 16 Amp, C-Curve RCBO with 16 A D-Curve RCBO in passenger Coaches under Hubballi and Vasco-Da-Gama Depots over Hubballi Division.	Rs. 11,68,200.00
5	Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for water coolers installed at various stations over Hubballi Division for a period of 03 years.	Rs. 11,29,154.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03-06-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Hubballi
PUB/100/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2025-26/05 Dated: 02-05-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of High Power Electrical Pump for Wheel washing facilities at Sasalu.	Rs. 14,64,183.70

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 23-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/General Mysuru
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PUBLIC NOTICE
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka has accorded Environmental Clearance for the project for the Development of Residential Tower with Civic amenities by M/s. Max Global Developers at Sy. Nos. 35/1 & 35/2 of Doddakannalli Village, Varthuru Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District vide EC No: EC23C3801KA5415723N and File No.:SEIAA 64 CON 2025 dated 06.05.2025 under the provision of EIA Notification, 14th September 2006.
Copy of the Clearance Letter is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen at website of the PARIVESH portal.
(Authorized Signatory)
Mr. R.S. Vinay Kumar Reddy

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: 06-SNT-MYS-2025 Dated: 03.05.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Interlocking of 14 Nos. of LC Gates over Mysuru Division where TVU has exceeded 20000 in Mysuru Division [Composite Work of S & T Work, Engineering, Electrical General and Electrical TRD]	Rs. 14,92,75,604.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 26.05.2025**
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Mysuru
PUB/93/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/115/2025 Dated: 06-05-2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Construction of Light ROB at Km: 87/400-500 with 1x42.00 m Composite Girder (Railway portion) + 04x18.71m PSC Girder towards Gubbi village side and 03x18.71m PSC Girder towards New Highway side and Retaining wall on both side of ROB Merging lengths between Mallasandra (MLSA) and Nittur (NTR) stations in Gubbi (GBB) yard including electrical works (COMPOSITE WORK) **(Tender Ref. No.: ROB-MLSA-NTR)**	Rs. 13,06,52,215/-

Date of closing of Tender is : **Upto 15:00 hrs on 28-05-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/Works Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/103/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26
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PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Smt. Vijayabharathi Karuppannan, W/o. Sri. Saravanan Murugesan is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners Sri. Nishant Chandresh, S/o. Sri. Chandeshwar Prasad Singh and his wife Smt. Puja Singh both are residing at Flat No. 505, Block-G2, Chourasia Manor, Phase-2, Kaverappa Layout, Panathur, Bangalore-560103.
If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.
SCHEDULE
residential Vacant Plot bearing No. 23, Panchayathi E-Khata bearing Property No. 177/23, PID No. 150200101601720855, measuring East to West 15.24 Mtrs. and North to south 9.14 Mtrs. in total measuring 139.35 Sq. Mtrs. in the layout "36 PARK AVENUE", formed as per approval No. APA/LAO/65/2021-22, DATED 07-12-2022 formed in converted land bearing Sy. No. 42, situated at Chikkadasarahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, and bounded on the : East by : 9Mtrs. wide Road, West by : Site No. 26, North by : Site No. 24, South by : Site No. 22.
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7th A Main Road, 1st Block,
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Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
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SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
(Under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002)

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrowers(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the ARM Branch II, Bangalore of Canara Bank, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ARM Branch II, Bangalore will be sold "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of outstanding dues from below mentioned Borrowers. The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit is mentioned below.

Name of Borrowers and Guarantors	Total Liabilities	Details and full description of the property	Auction Date & Time	Reserve Price & Earnest Money Deposit [EMD] Date & Time	Incremental Value at Bid
1) The Managing Director M/s Technospark Industries India Pvt Ltd 1341, Kavalbyrasandra, R T Nagar Post, (Near DR.Ambedkar Medical College), Bengaluru – 560032 Karnataka **Also at,** Plot No. 178-A2 & 179-A, KIADB Industrial Area, Vasanthanarasapura 1st Phase, Nagenahalli Post, Kora Hobli, Tumkur – 572 128 **2) Mr Mohan Suresh (Managing Director and Guarantor)** Flat No 604, Block No.E-2, Unit No.WH-87, VI Floor, Sri Ram White House VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bengaluru 560 032 **Also at** A 1501, Vaishnavi Terrace, Dollars Colony JP Nagar 4th Phase Bengaluru 560 078 Karnataka **3) Mrs. Surekha Suresh (Director and Guarantor)** Flat No 604, Block No.E-2, Unit No.WH-87, VI Floor, Sri Ram White House VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bengaluru 560 032 **Also at** A 1501, Vaishnavi Terrace, Dollars Colony JP Nagar 4th Phase Bengaluru 560 078 Karnataka **4) Mr M Sanjeev (Guarantor)** No 359, 17th A Cross, 26th Main Road, J P Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078	**Rs. 49,92,07,456.48/- (Rupees Forty nine Crore ninty two lakhs seven thousand four hundred fifty six and forty eight paise only)** as on 31.03.2025 and plus interest thereon and other expenses with direct and indirect liabilities due to Canara Bank from **M/s Technospark Industries India Pvt Ltd** represented by Directors/ Guarantors/ Mortgagors **Mr. Mohan Suresh, Mrs. Surekha Suresh and Mr. M Sanjeev.**	**Property No.1 :** All that piece and parcel of property in the name of **Mr. M Sanjeev** being a portion of land in Survey No 45/3A of erstwhile Kaval Byrasandra Village measuring 18 1/2 guntas covered for residential purpose vide orders of Deputy Commissioner Bangalore District dated 17.08.1987 vide B.DIS.ALN:SR (N) 63/86, 87 later 10 guntas of land modified for industrial purpose vide orders dated 11.08.1988 under reference no B.DIS.ALN.SR 1/1988-89 now within the limit of BBMP and bearing Muncipal No 23 (Old No 45/3), PID no 95-50-23, New PID No 032-W0301-12 situated at 1st Main Road, Muniswamappa Layout, Kaval Byrasandra, **RT Nagar** Bengaluru and entire plot measuring 18 1/2 guntas or 20,146.5 square feet and **bounded on the East by** Land belonging to Chikkaputtanna **West By** Road leading to Doddanna's Land **North By** Land belonging to Appiahanna's Sons **South by** Land belonging to Munishamappa @ Bhoomanna and Road **Property No.2 :**All that piece and parcel of land and building existing and / or to be constructed there on in Sri Ram White House Apartment Complex House No WH-37, in Block AIII on the fifth floor, Apartment No 501, Survey No 37 located at VI Main, 15th cross, R T Nagar, Bangalore-32, together with easementary and appurtments thereto in the name of Mrs. Surekha Suresh and Mr. Mohan Suresh, and **bounded as follows:- East by-** Storm Water drain **West by** BDA Road **North by** Remaining portion of Property bearing Sy No 37, pertaining to White House Project **South by** Private Property **Property No.3 : Item No.1 :** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 1** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the ground floor of the multistoried building known as '**FAMILY YMCA**" constructed in the property bearing No 57/4, PID No 92-30-57/4 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road **South-** Miller Road and Premises No 56, Miller Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church) **Item No.2** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 2** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the first floor of the multistoried building known as "FAMILY YMCA" constructed in the property bearing No 57/5, PID No 92-30-57/5 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church **Item No.3** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 3** in the name of **Mr. Mohan Suresh** situated on the second floor of the multistoried building known as 'FAMILY YMCA" constructed in the property bearing No 57/6, PID No 92-30-57/6 situated at Miller Road within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division No 47) measuring super built up area of 1430 square feet in Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road **North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road **South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road (in between Cantonment Railway Station under bridge and St. Johns Church) **Property No.4 :** All that piece and parcel of property **Flat Number 4**, in the name of **M/s Technospark Industries India Private Ltd**, in the 3rd floor, admeasuring Super Built up area of 1430 square feet and 100 square feet land in the back yard to erect lift in the multistoried building known as "Family YMCA" constructed in the property bearing Muncipal No 57, PID No 92-30-57, situated at Millers Road, within the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No 92 (old Corporation Division number 47) Bangalore along with 286 square feet undivided share and **bounded as follows; East-** Premises Number 1 & 1/1, Bore Bank Road & site nos 1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5 and 1/6, Bore Bank Road **West-** Premises No 56 of Millers Road, Premises No 38/B, 38/K, 38/J, 38/G, 38/H and Millers Road, , the last four premises situated on the New Road Running near premises number 38/B, Benson Cross and Cottage Belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Alexander.**North-** Premises No 3 Bore Bank Road & Cottage belonging to Mr.Abdul Wajid and another.**South-** Millers Road and Premises No 56, Millers Road **Property No.5 :** Property No.152500900601920013, Plot No. 178-A2 & 179-A, Sy. No.50, Khata No. 37/37/178/A2/179/A, Vasanthanarasapura Induatrial Area, Nagenahalli village, Kora Hobli, Tumkur **North :** Plot No 178 A1 and 178 B **South :** Plot No 179 C **East :** 18 metre wide road no 20 **West :** Parking	29.05.2025 – 12:00 PM to 02.00 PM	**Property No.1 : Reserve Price:** Rs.11,20,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.1,12,00,000/- **Property No.2 : Reserve Price:** Rs.1,53,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.15,30,000/- **Property No.3 : Reserve Price:** Rs.3,97,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.39,70,000/- **Property No.4 : Reserve Price:** Rs.1,29,00,000/- **EMD:** Rs.12,90,000/- **Property No.5 : Reserve Price:** Rs.7,17,00,000.00 **EMD:** Rs. 71,70,000.00 **on or before 28.05.2025**	1) Multiplies of Rs.2,00,000/- **Encumbrance(s):** Not Known to the Bank

Other terms and conditions
a. Auction / bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://baanknet.com/ Bidders are advised to go through the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.
b. The property can be inspected, with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer .
c. The property will be sold for the price which is more than the Reserve Price and the participating bidders may improve their offer further during auction process.
d. EMD amount of 10% of the Reserve Price is to be deposited in E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (E-bkray/Baanknet) portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan.
e. After payment of the EMD amount, the intending bidders should submit a copy of the following documents/details on or before 28.05.2025, to Canara Bank, ARM Branch II Bangalore by hand OR Email.
i. Proof of Payment of EMD.
ii. Photocopies of PAN Card, ID Proof and Address proof. However, successful bidder would have to produce these documents in original to the Bank at the time of making payment of balance amount of 25% of bid amount.
iii. Bid Form.
The intending bidders should register their names at portal https://baanknet.com/and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider, M/s.PSB Alliance (E bkray/Baanknet) - e- mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com
EMD deposited by the unsuccessful bidder shall be refunded to them. The EMD shall not carry any interest.
f. Auction would commence at Reserve Price, as mentioned above. Bidders shall improve their offers in multiplies of Rs.2,00,000/-.The bidder who submits the highest bid (not below the Reserve price) on closure of 'Online' auction shall be declared as successful bidder. Sale shall be confirmed in favour of the successful bidder, subject to confirmation of the same by the secured creditor.
g. The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the sale price (inclusive of EMD already paid), immediately on declaring him/her as the successful bidder and the balance within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. If the successful bidder fails to pay the sale price, the deposit made by him shall be forfeited by the Authorized Officer without any notice and property shall forthwith be put up for sale again. This amount shall be deposited by way of Demand draft in favour of Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM II Branch OR shall be deposited through RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer to credit of account of Canara Bank, ARM II Branch, A/c. No. 209272434, IFSC Code: CNRB0006298.
h. For sale proceeds of Rs.50.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifty lacs) and above, the successful bidder will have to deduct TDS at a rate 1% or as applicable on the sale proceeds and submit the original receipt of TDS certificate to the bank.
i. All charges for Conveyance, Stamp Duty/GST/Registration Charges etc. As applicable shall be borne by the successful bidder only.
j. Authorised Officer reserves the right to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and conditions of the E-auction without assigning any reason thereof.
k. In case there are bidders who do not have access to the internet but interested in participating the E-auction, they can approach Canara Bank Circle office, Bengaluru or Canara Bank ARM II Branch, Bengaluru, who as a facilitating centre shall make necessary arrangements.
l. Bidder has to make due diligence and physical verification of property with regard to title, extent, area dues, etc. No claim subsequent to submission of bid shall be entertained by the bank.
For further details contact Chief Manager, Canara Bank , ARM Branch-2- (080-25310181) e-mail id – cb6298@canarabank.com OR the service provider M/s.PSB Alliance(E bkray/baanknet) - e- mail: support.baanknet@psballiance.com

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION / CAUTION
Bidding in the last minutes/seconds should be avoided by the bidders in their own interest. Neither Canara Bank nor the Service Provider will be responsible for any lapses/failure (Internet failure, Power failure, etc.) on the part of the bidder or vendor in such cases. In order to ward off such contingent situation, bidders are requested to make all the necessary arrangements/alternatives such as back –up, power supply and whatever else required so that they are able to circumvent such situation and are able to participate in the auction successfully. The property will not be sold below the Reserve Price.

Place: Bangalore | Date: 07.05.2025
Sd/-, Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

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Three women suffer burns as power line falls on houses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Three women sustained burns and around 10 makeshift houses were damaged, when a tree fell on an electricity line which snapped and fell on the houses in Belagere labour colony on Saturday.

Many residents, including children, had a narrow escape while household articles, a computer and a mobile repair shop were gutted.

The incident occurred around 3.30 p.m. when the landowner hired a heavy vehicle to clean the land where the houses for the labourers were situated. The vehicle, while cleaning the land, pulled down a tree, which fell on the high-tension wire.

As a result, the live wire snapped and fell on the houses which had tin rooftop sheets.

Transformer explodes

A transformer exploded within seconds and the power went out, which saved many lives. Three women who were inside the houses sustained burns and were shifted to a private hospital. The driver of the heavy vehicle sped away soon after the incident.

The Varthur police visited the spot and took stock of the situation.

The police are waiting for a complaint to take up the case further. The residents are wary of filing a complaint fearing the landowner and his associates who had rented out the premises to the migrant labourers who are from Nepal, Assam, and West Bengal, sources said.

Inflammatory posts: Police take action

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Following a recommendation by the Mangaluru police, Meta has taken action against an Instagram page as it was found to be containing inflammatory posts.

In a press release, the city police said these posts, which were intended to create communal tension, were made since the murder of Bajrang Dal activist and rowdy sheeter Suhas Shetty on May 1. This page had over 1 lakh followers.

Three cases on the alleged posting of inflammatory material were registered by social media monitoring police personnel in Barke and Mulky police stations.

Following an investigation by the Cyber Economic and Narcotic Crime police, a letter was sent by the city police to Meta, the police said.

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OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 09/SBC/25 of 28-04-2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Zone J :** Annual repairs/maintenance of quarters and service buildings under the jurisdiction of KSR Bengaluru [Excl] - Yesvantpur (YPR) - Yelahanka (YNK) [Excl] under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvantpur Sub-Division.	Rs. 3,71,46,230/-
2	**Zone-K :** Annual repairs/maintenance of quarters and service buildings from Yesvantpur [Excl] to Sampige Road [Incl] under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvantpur Sub-Division.	Rs. 3,07,41,744/-
3	**Zone-I :** Annual repairs/maintenance of quarters and service buildings from Doddaballapur (DBU) [Incl] to Dharmavaram (DMM) [Excl] via Makajapalli (MKJ) and from Penukonda (PKD) to Dharmavaram (DMM) [Excl] via Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam (SSPN) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer /Hindupur Sub-Division.	Rs. 4,03,59,055/-
4	**Zone-N:** Annual repairs / maintenance of quarters and service buildings from Channasandra (CSDR) [Incl] - Dodballapur (DBU) [Excl] and Yelahanka (YNK) [Station incl] - Chintamani (CMY) [Excl] under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Yesvanthpur Sub-Division.	Rs. 2,08,69,244/-
5	**Zone C :** Annual repairs/maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings from Chikka Banavara (BAW) [Excl] to Hassan (HAS) [Excl] under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Kunigal Sub-Division.	Rs. 2,78,91,040/-
6	**Zone M :** Annual repairs/maintenance of quarters and service buildings from Kelamangalam (KMLM) to Lottegollahalli (LOGH) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Dharmapuri Sub-Division.	Rs. 3,12,42,040/-
7	**Zone L:** Annual repairs/maintenance of quarters and service buildings under the jurisdiction of Omalur Junction(OML) to Kelamangalam (KMLM) under Assistant Divisional Engineer / Dharmapuri(DPJ) Sub-Division.	Rs. 3,12,42,039/-
8	**Zone F:** Annual repairs/Maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings at Jolarpettai (Excl) - Malur (Excl), Marikuppam (MKM)-Bangarpet (BWT)-Kolar (KQZ) Chintamani (CMY) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer /Bangarpet.	Rs. 3,67,80,050/-
9	**Zone D:** Annual repairs/Maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings Bangalore East (BNCE) to Malur (MLO) (Incl) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer / Bengaluru.	Rs. 3,50,58,938/-
10	**Zone B:** Maintenance of Sir M Vishweswaraya Terminal, Bengaluru (SMVB) station building, service building and platforms and circulating area.	Rs. 1,93,44,425/-
11	**Zone G-** Annual repairs/Maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings - KSR Bengaluru (SBC) (Excl) - Yeliyur (Y) (Incl) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Mandya.	Rs. 1,85,57,028/-
12	**Zone A:** Maintenance of service building and staff quarters at IRIDM at Hejjala under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Mandya.	Rs. 66,51,513/-
13	**Zone S:** Annual repairs/Maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings - KSR Bengaluru (SBC) and Bengaluru Cantonment (BNC) station area under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/G/Bengaluru.	Rs. 5,25,51,520/-
14	**Zone H:** Annual repairs/Maintenance of staff quarters and service buildings - KSR Bengaluru (SBC) and Bengaluru Cantonment (BNC) under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/G/Bengaluru.	Rs. 5,23,91,520/-
15	**Zone P:** Annual repairs/Maintenance of staff quarters and service at Diesel Loco Shed KJM under the jurisdiction of Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bengaluru.	Rs. 95,00,060/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 26-05-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

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AGE 49 Divorcee Issueless, Company Secretary. Seeks Suitable Groom. Cast no Bar Ct : 9360167989

HINDU CNB 40 Pharma Hyderabad, Never Married, looking for suitable working groom from same city. 9094770007

HINDU GIRL 39/5'9" BA Economics, Chennai. MSc Economics, UK, Senior Professional in MNC at Chennai, mixed parentage, from a business family, looking for Hindu Match India / Abroad, well educated, professional, well settled, Ct:+91 99203 08857

DOCTOR

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Kanyakumari District 28/154 MD Dermotology seeks same sect Doctor groom, PG/Student preferred. Send resume: 9487452271.

27/172CMS/MUSLIM, BRIDE/MS ENT/ Seeks Suitable PG Doctor/Civil Services groom from Muslim. CT: 7339157563

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SEEKING NEVER married suitable PG Doctor Groom for a P.G Doctor M.S.(O.G), Reddy girl, born 1990, employed in Chennai. Contact WhatsApp: 9962548166

DOCTOR GIRL 32/156, MD, DM seeks suitable groom. Contact: 9497168001, 9447493034

DOCTOR ALLIANCE invited from a well–settled, like minded liberal affluent cultured family for our daughter MBBS 28 years, height 160 cms, beautiful slim fair US Citizen based in Texas. Kindly contact with family details, pictures and birth chart by email at rpolapragada@yahoo.com, cell 8106116633. Jai Shri Sai.

✔ **USA 28 yrs Hindu /Tamil//BC Doctor doing Neurology residency at New Jersey seeks Doctor Grooms of similar Profile Whatsapp 9677026459**

MGM ASSOCIATE Consultant, MCh, Surgical Oncologist, 30, fair, pillai, veg, 172cms looking for doctor/professional veg groom from Chennai. WhApp 6383189302

Hindu Adidravidar, 23 yrs / 158 cm MBBS, wanted Doctor Groom only. Contact - 9360048333

REDDY 34/165CM MBBS, MS Seeks Suitable Groom from Chennai / Dubai / Singapore CNB 8925640111

PARENTS OF Doctor Gynaecologist MS (OBG) FMAS 91 born Hindu Naidu Never Married looking for a suitable well settled Doctor Groom CNB 9047020797 chitram.bsgr@gmail.com

24/165CMS/ARYA VYSYA, bride/ M.Sc Data Science/Seeks PG Dr/Business groom from same caste. CT: 7339157563

Fair, Smart, Pretty, cultured homely Doctor Girl 35/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist Reputed Hospital, Chennai from affluent family of Doctors, Father Cardiac Surgeon from Kerala based in Chennai. Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for PG Doctor & Engineer grooms from good families. 98400 50381 / 98409 85383

Caste No Bar, Doing MD Anesthesia, 26, Fair, 162 cm, looking suitable Doctor / CA groom, Father - Christian, Mother - Brahmin, Mobile-9600076975 / 7397666544

Mudaliar Bride born Dec1993 Doctor MS General Surgery Chennai seeks Doctor Groom MS/MD from Mudaliar/Vellallar Cont: 7904339374

HINDI

DELHI– BASED Arora family looking for a groom for their beautiful daughter, 31, 155 cm MBA, working at MNC in Gurgaon, 25L pkg. Wanted a qualified, well–settled boy. Contact 9357407003.

THE HINDU
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MALAYALAM

ATTRACTIVE, CARING, 29, 170cm, UK–educated, UAE–based, open–minded Catholic professional. Seeking compatible partner. Call or WA 9345634365.

HINDU GIRL 38, MSc Phd Scientist, working abroad, caste no bar. Malappuram, 9447257594, 9946492247

EZHAVA GIRL 27/157cm Rohini,Sudhajatagam Work in Ireland Seeks Prof Qlfd groom Work in Ireland. 9962512968

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RC, CNB, 26yrs, M.Sc, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 9360732728/ 9962121959

CHRISTIAN BE 35/164cm Handsome BC Girl Working CTS (SWE) in USA H1B Visa seeks good looking groomworking with SWE/Professional in USA. CNB. CT: 81488 25673 Brokers Excuse

CSI NADAR, 24yrs, M.Sc, Vey Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks suitable Groom 9962121959/ 9360732728

RC CHRISTIAN Nadar unmarried fair Bride 35/170 ME Software Enggr. seeks BC/FC unmarried groom. Ct. 9886888775

CHRISTIAN AD Girl 30Yrs/167cm MBBS MD Radiology (Govt. Kovai, Ooty) good looking seeks Doctor / Any Govt Groom. CT: 9578815447.

TAMIL MUSLIM 25/175 O & G pursuing seeks prof qualified groom Ct: 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

✔ **MUSLIM GIRL 38 yrs, seeks unmarried, qualified, employed Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

BORN AGAIN christian, 44yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai, CT–9500188067

RC GIRL 30/170 cm, Working in Micro Soft – HR, Parents Keralite Settled in Chennai. Based Groom From a Good Family Background. 9345262574

✔ **CHETTIAR 37** yrs 157cms M.S (USA) Well educated family seeks suitable groom from same or equal community. Ct.9994338914

HINDU MARUTHUVAR CA Auditor MNC 32 / 158cm fair legally divorced CNB Chennai seeks groom. Ct 9600055160

SEEKING WELL qualified groom for my daughter (Hindu – Mudaliar) 28/ 170 cm, UX Designer / 15LPA . Ph.no : 9486380013

HINDU/ SC/ Tamil/ March 93/ BE/ IRS–IT Seeks Groom from IAS and Allied Services / MD,MS, SS– 9042261465

SENGUNTHAR 24YRS, 150 cms Mirugashisham BE Software Engineer in Chennai seeks a well–educated (B.E) groom with clean habits, working in Chennai. 9952954930/ 8668190730

DEVENDRAKULAVELALAR 26/157 MBBS UK GMC Regd Seeks Suitable Doctor Groom. Send BHP. Ct: sams7796@gmail.com

CASTE NO bar. Chennai based Affluent Good looking Mudaliar Girl 29, is seeking for a Groom from a good family background and family values. Ct : 89258 19448

HINDU PILLAI 40 Fair MBA working in MNC, DUBAI. seeks Suitable Groom CNB. Email: rasnan1948@gmail.com

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 31, M.Tech completed, Developer at MNC, Income 15 Lakhs, Looking for Educated Groom. Ct 9072777822

HINDU, PILLAI, Age 24, Studied Masters Management, Doing Business, Income 12 Lakhs. Ct 8138901337

HINDU, CASTE no bar, Age 24, MBA, IT professional at Chennai, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138901281

HINDU, VANNIYA Kulashatriya Naicker, Age 26, B.Arch, IT professional, Family Income 50 Lakhs. 8137003516

TAMIL

VANNIYAR, 25 BA LLB, doing LLM OP Jindal, Hastham with Raagu Kethu seeks Chennai based groom – PG degree with good job or Business people from well settled family. 9444063969

FATHER – SC (DKV), Mother–FC, 1980, B.A.,First Marriage. Seeks Any Caste Unmarried/Widower, Degree, Diploma, Government, Private or Business. Chennai. Whatsapp: 9003173511

VANIYA CHETTIAR Aswini Mesam 30yrs/ 161cm MBBS MD DNB Pulmonology,seeks Doctor/ IPS/ IAS groom 9840125521

MBBS MD DR. TN Govt Chennai Hindu Naidu Elite Family fair slim 165 cm 23–02–90 magaram uthiradam 4 seeks Dr, Class A officer, Business Groom. Any Hindu FC/BC. 9841743266.

SC AD Hindu Bride Age 25/163, BE, MBA Thiruvonam/Magaram Working in Nationalized Bank, Seeking from the same Community Preferably Chennai Groom Bank/Govt Job from well Educated Family, below 30yrs.Ct 9443643415

HINDU SC (AD), 26/158cm Beautiful Bride Msc Daughter of Executive Director NLCIL (Retd) Seeks well Employed Groom Ct:9443289673/ 9443074657

CASTE NO Bar, 31yrs, BE, MS, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

CNB, 28YRS, Divorce, B.Tech, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 6385293227

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar,37yrs, Divorce, ME, 2.5lakhs pm,Elite business family Ct: 9962121959/ 9360732728

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, MBA ,CA, Well Educated Family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

THULUVA VELLAR Subcast BDS 33 years well Settled Doctor, Engineer, Business etc. Ct: 6382232024

HINDU SC/AD 30 M.B.B.S, fair star-Ashwini well settled Chennai seeks prof qualified Doctors, Govt officers and engineers from same community. Ph:9840210047 / 9080281136

HASTHAM 37 Fair MCA in chennai wants Mudaliar/Pillai profesly Qualfd working Groom 9444136336/ 8220757159

SC AD /Sambavar, 33, BE, Asst Manager,Nationalised Bank seeks qualified employed Groom. 8220947468

VANNIYAKULASHATRIYA GIRL 1998 may kettai B.E PSU Bank Officer contact – 9894128789, 9444777789

PRETTY HINDU Girl 1999 Born / MBA From London/ with Well of family background Net worth around 1000cr is looking for a suitable match (080–69129269)

BEAUTIFUL HINDU Girl 1992/ MBBS / MS / Doctor/ Resident At Chennai / with Affluent family background is looking for a suitable match(Caste No Bar) (080–69129266)

BEAUTIFUL TAMIL Brahmin Girl Born 2002. From a affluent family background of Chennai is looking for a suitable profile.(080–69129267)

TALENTED HINDU Saiva Pillai Bride, 38 yrs, Tamil, Magham, U.S educated, Sr Economist at leading Central Govt org in Mumbai seeks Hindu Groom aged 38-41 yrs, vegetarian, well qualified, successful & settled in Mumbai. Ph: 99940 22477

VANNIA KULA Kshtriya Girl 31years 155cm MDS Dentist working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai seeks suitable groom Contact:9382167197/ 9962781009

DKV/SC MAY 1994/ 167cm Fair BE Parents Hindu / CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./Er. Govt Employee. 8056143638

MUDALIAR, 26, BE, MS, 162cm Good Look, Well Settled Family Seeks Groom CNB, Ct. 8778514465 / 7200866346

DR MD Dvl SC/AD 1985 Mesham Barani Suitable Bride groom MD/MS/ME (or) Goverment officer CNB 9445600511

MUDALIAR 25/160, Fair. MBBS, MS, Dr Vijaya Hospital,1200000.PA, well settled, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

AFFLUENT FAMILY
VIP
An Exclusive and VIP Brahmin Family in South India invites alliance for their daughter (who has finished masters from top class university). Matching from Affluent Family
BRAHMIN
The Boy should be tall, from big affluent family, well educated, Born before 1992
kssgrand20@gmail.com

SC AD 37yrs, BE Software Engineer, 1.40Lks/month, TCS, Chennai. Never married, seeks Grooms Age 37-40 yrs. Ct: 99521 47216 / 88380 34943

Adidravidar 28/160cm Hastham B.E, B.Ed seeks Professionally qualified settled groom,same caste.9789668845

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

AGE–43/178, ARYA VYSYA, work – Mumbai, Never Married, veg, Good salary, prop in chennai, Ph:9841551772

Hindu, 42, MBA, 16 L, Divrse, Chennai, in any cast # Contact-9825661334

NAIDU, 48yrs, Financier, Divorce, seeks suitable Bride. Cast No Bar. Contact: 80722 00923 / 94981 33365.

DOCTOR

GAVARA 28, MBBS, Business, 5.10" Smart Good Looking, Poorattadhi 4, Meenam Well Settled seeks MBBS, beautiful Naidu Bride. Cont: 9941944443, E–mail: subburayanthamba@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR, 28years MBBS, MD,Doing. Very Talent. Seeks MBBS Female Doctor. Contact : 7358 638363

ENGLISH

MATCH FOR SC Boy I IIM MBA I 27yrs I Rs.30LPA. Looking for a suitable alliance for our son, 27/177cm, B.Tech + MBA (IIM), working in a top MNC with Rs.30LPA package. Smart, well–cultured, and career–focused. Seeking an educated, family–oriented girl from a respectable background. Caste no bar. Ct: 9417579507

MALAYALAM

NAIR, 41, BE, MS(US), Chennai, Chadayam (Shudha Jatakam) worked in US(15yrs) seeks good fmly educated bride, pref PG, from Chn/B'lore. Contact: 9940573281, 9840378555

NAIR PARENTS Mumbai seek proposals for boy, 29/183 cm, CA, Thrikketta (Sudhajathakam), employed in MNC Mumbai, from parents of professionally qualified Nair girls. Father: 9819730974.

EZHAVA BOY 31/170cm, Avittam, Sudhajathagam Work in US, Seeks Prof.qualified bride work in USA.9962512968

NAIR BOY, 32/182, Pooram, Civil Engineer Settled in Chennai Seeks Alliance from Educated Good Looking Bride belongs to similar community. Ct: 9840397130 / 7708097100.

NAIR BOY, 38 Avittam MTECH Engg Specialist USA. H1B, Cast no bar, Ct: 78454 70323, 94884 57539

NRI

TAMIL HINDU 54 yrs, 173cm BSc, MBA, IT Proff, Australia, Divorce. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp: 61422909407

TAMIL

MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age–40, Never married, Star: Kettai, Own House, 6 Acre land. Sub Caste ok. 9677622641

TAMIL

SMART, SUCCESSFUL businessman, 30, 179cm, well–educated (top–tier BE, MBA), from multicultural family. Seeks compatible partner. Religion/community no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

TAMIL MUSLIM, 57yrs, B.Com/ 50000 per month, Son 17 yrs studying seeks issueless Divorcee/ Widow. Contact: 94430 11354, 78688 88516

CHRISTIAN RC Boy 33 Years / 178cm/ MBBS / MD / Doctor / Resident of Chennai from a Affluent family seeks a girl for early marriage (080–69129268)

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

GAVARA NAIDU Well settled in Chennai 29years/ 165 cm/ ME Design Engineer in MNC and Own Buisiness, Rental income also, Star Thiruvonam Rasi Magaram seeks suitable Bride, Call 9841097110

SENGUNTHA MUDALIYAR, 29yrs, 5.5Ft, based in KK Nagar, Chennai. B.E, M.S. (USA), Working as Senior Analyst at Tech Mahindra, Chennai. Belongs to a very affluent family, with clean habits. Seeking a well–educated, good–natured bride. Contact: 9176140575

CASTE NO Bar. Good looking Mudaliar Boy 30 / 174 from an affluent Business Background seeking a fair & pleasant looking girl. Ct 8925819448

TAMIL

HINDU, NADAR, Age 29, MBBS, MD, Doctor at Pudhucherry, Income 7 Lakhs, Need doctor Bride. Ct 7356483111

HINDU, MEENAVAR, Age 32, Studied BE, Working as Associate Consultant at Chennai, Income 15 Lakhs. Ct 8138002746

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 27yrs B.Tech 2lakhs pm, Elite business family in Chennai 9380791999/ 9841329471

RICH MUDALIYAR, 37yrs, Divorce, M.Tech, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 6385293227

BE MBA IIM Agamudayar 28yrs 18LPA Executive Pvt Bank Punarpoosam only Son. Looking professional match from Mukkulathore Community. Ct:98420 03232

27,HANDSOME, 170CM, B.B.A Graduate, self employed, only son settled in Mysore. Recovering from depression, seeks loving, vegetarian bride. Cont: padmaananth09@gmail.com, Ph: 9008909171 (between 3.30 to 8.30 pm)

VANNIYAR 43/167 B.E IT Manager Chennai, Never Married, Seeks suitable alliance. 9840196320

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian, Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

VAANIYARCHETTY - VISAGAM 39/176 MS(Sweden) working Sweden 60 LPA (Swedish Citizen & OCI) seeks BE/MS/MBA/MCA/CA/PhD/ Prof. Bride CNB, Contact : 98404 29799.

VELLALAR MUDALIYAR 38yrs/167cm, B.E, Swathi 7L –PA, Home tuition teacher Cost nobar Rent house. 8939170330

VANIAKULAKYSHRTIYA AFFLUENT family 1994 May born B.Tech Entrepreneur in Green Energy Business.Seeks Bride from Same Community. Ct 9444453825

PILLAI (CNB) 30/ Handsome, B.E, Program Manager, LinkedIn, Bangalore, Rs.2800000PA, Only son, Elite family. Ct: 9442383525, 8925019776

MUDALIAR PARENTS Alliance Invited :Bride for my Son working in USA, Age 32Yrs, well to do Status. Contact: 98406 36662, WhatsApp: 9840456644

GOVT COLLEGE Lecturer MA Phd 180cm Mesham Bharani only son Well Settled Chennai CNB. Ct: 9789847577

SEEKING A South Indian Hindu bride with family values for engineering graduate, 31 years, software engineer in Bengaluru. Height 191 cms. Educated family. Tamil Chettiar background. Caste no bar. Contact: shobaneshwari.tirumal@gmail.com.

NAIDU (BALIJA) Kanni– Uthiram 27/ 175 B.Tech, Production Engr in Muscat 12L/pa seeks Chennai based bride from respected family. Ct:7358639172

TIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai, 31yrs/ 180 cms, Anusham, B.E, MS., working in USA. Seeking bride from Same / Related community B.E., B.Tech/ MS in IT preferred. Ct: 9442162509 / 8870695851

HINDU ISAI Vellalar 27/179, B.E. working as Deputy Manager, Titan Company Ltd, Bangalore. Earning Handsome Salary, Cast no Bar. Well settled Family seeks Educated Working Bride from good back ground family. Contact: 97909 38394

HANDSOME HINDU Boy 1994 Born / 178cm / Businessman (Into Family Business) / Resident at Chennai & Bangalore into Affluent Family Background Net worth around 1000cr looking for a suitable match.(080–69129271)

MUDIALAR BOY 1993 / 183cm / MS Engineering/ Working in USA income 5 cr and above/ family located in Chennai is looking for a suitable match (080–69129265)

TAMIL

HANDSOME TAMIL Boy 1990 Born 178cm / MBBS / MD / Doctor/ with good family background /Resident of Chennai is looking for suitable match (080–69129268)

HINDU –BE/SWE/33/170CM/AYILLAM/SC. Well settled family in Bangalore. Seeks Bride from same/other caste . Ct 9845401461.

B'WAJAM AAILYAM 52/163 cm IT Professional With 2 Children Drawing Very Good Salary In Chennai Seeks Suitable Brahmin Issueless Widow Or Pure Veg TN Girls. Contact 9940238222, 9363007404.

HINDU, AGAMUDAIYAR, Age: 35, Pooradam, 178 c.m, B.E., Pilot, Rich Family. Caste No Bar. Call: 8056266229

TELUGU CHETTIAR Unmarried 1983/ 181cm Btech, MBA Manager 14 lakhs/ PA. Seeks suitable Telugu/Tamil unmarried alliance. Ct 9444559768

HINDU NADAR 24yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Elite Business Family Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:9380791999/ 9841329471

SAIVA PILLAI 39, Divorcee. BE/MBA, MNC, Bangalore, Seeks First Marriage Bride in Thirunelveli/ Thanjavur Saiva Pillai/ Karkathar Society only.Ct: 8072215374/ 9344701672

VANIYAR, 32yrs, M.E., Lecturer in Engg.college Coimbatore, Divorcee, seeks suitable Bride. Caste No Bar. Contact: 9965255135

MUDALIAR 29/183, Handsome, MBBS, MD, Dr Ramachnadra,3500000.PA, Elite Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

BRAHMIN IYENGAR 46yrs, 1st marriage salary 1,25,000/- monthly in pondicherry seeking brahmin bride divorcee or widow without child broker excuse Ct: 9790864363

BRAHMIN 63YRS well settled author, Looking soulmate for marriage, widow around 50yrs WhatsApp 8220822951

Male Age :50, ,B.E, MBA, Working in MNC, Seeks Bride.. Brahmin / vegetarian, Contact: 9940317381

IYER, KASHIBA, Kettai, 49/177cm, MCA, Trichy, Divorced, No issue. Seek any vegetarian girl. Ct : 73390 62618

VADAKALAI AYYANGAR Vadulam, Poosam 27/180cm V.Fair, SW–IT Chennai, Seeks Good looking, Employed Bride from same Section. Ct: 6381936299

IYER VADULAM Uthiram Nov 1977 BSc (MCA) MNC IT Chennai 28 Lacs PA Seek unmarried Brahmin Girl 9841071359

BRIDE WANTED
NADAR (Tamil) BE, MBA (Cambridge), Business Analyst at reputed MNC London, 30/172cm Hastham, Seeks well Educated / Professionally Qualified Working Bride from the same community or outside.
Contact:
9840144589
cloudhills2025@gmail.com

HINDU, ST, 44yrs, BE, MBA, AGM in H.M.T office, Bangalore. Divorce, Caste No Bar. No Issue. Ct: 96772 47227

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, 41, ME, working in USA SWE, For a handsome divorced Groom Native - Nagercoil. seeks beautiful Bride educated, willing to go USA, 1st or 2nd Marriage. Ct: 09486472450, 09345648649

TELUGU

GAVARA, MBBS, M.D.(Physiology), AIIMS in Delhi, 13LPA, 175cm, 30y, groom seeks a Gavara bride. 7799442110

TELUGU

DUDEKULA CASTE Telugu 31yr 170cm bsc business 3 cr properties proper warangal seeking bride of any caste except sc (no dowry) self:9848745201

RICH NAIDU, 28yrs, ME, Own constructions and Builders in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact:6385293227

CNB / 31Y / 178 / WHITE / COAL INDIA (PSU) Dy.Manager, 20 L P.A. Bilaspur (C.G) Hindu Dedicated Bank P.O's, PSU Working Bride wanted. Cont. 9440668540, 8919435580.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION in INDIA, CANADA, U.K, working as Sr.Fin.Manager in CANADA drawing CAD 12000/–pm, Tamil Iyer, Bharathwajam, Age 43, First marriage looking for Tamil Iyer graduate girl below 33, contact 9940025365/braman1951@yahoo.co.in.

BRIDE WANTED, Rich Naidu, 34yrs, BE, MS (US), Divorce, Well Educated Family background, CNB Ct:6385293227

WANTED BRIDE for ISRO Scientist level 10, 27yrs Trivarnika Vaishnava Telugu Central Govt. Employees preferred Ph: 8099017279 WhatsApp only

URDU

SEEKING CANADIAN PR/Citizen Bride 23–28yrs working professional with fmly values for our Son in Toronto (Citizen) , 29yrs, 180cm, handsome, highly educated, Masters, well employed with MNC. Parents are Chennai based Khan Fmly . Pl send details. Whatsapp: +91 9841078666 (Father)

URDU MUSLIM AHLE HADEES
26 YRS, 176CM, M.SC (UK) FROM WELL SETTLED RELIGIOUS FAMILY.
Looking Graduate Bride from well settled Family, Preferably from Chennai.
Ct: +91 99401 37445

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

PUNJABI

Well settled match for 165 cm, slim, beautiful Khatri girl, 4.2.91, Shimla from a reputed family of professionals. BTech NIT, MS Analytics, Consultant at Big4 MNC .Whatspp 9418044596

TAMIL

32Years Son, Tamil, SC (Caste No Bar), ME, MBA 17 LPA & 28Years Daughter, BE, MBA 13LPA work in IT seek suitable Bride & Groom respectively. Contact Cell: 9441677205.

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

PILLAI, 42, 178 cms, BE, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Business class family. Looking for a like minded match from any good community in India. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 25, 183 cms, MBA, Involved in Family Business. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar caste in Vellore District. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 31, 175 cms, MD, Doctor. Parents are Working Professionals. Lives in Salem. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar caste. Contact: 6366448343

MUKULATHOR, 29, 175 cms, software professional, BE. Lives in New Zealand. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from community in India/ Abroad. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN IYER, 23, 152 cms, Pursuing CA, Father is owning a Auditing firms. Lives in Chennai. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match Business class match from similar community in Chennai. Contact: 6366448343

CHETTIAR, 27, 168 cms, Pursuing Masters. Lives in UK. Father is a Doctor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match in UK. Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 27, 165 cms, MBA, Businesswoman. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for an amiable match from to similar community in Tamil Nadu. Contact: 6366448344

NADAR, 29, 160 cms, MS Ophthalmology. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded and well educated Doctor match in Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

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HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

HINDU BOY 40 Years / 193cm / Divorced/ Businessman(Into Multiple business / Resident at Bangalore Affluent family Net worth 700cr and above is looking for a suitable match(Caste no Bar) (080–69129262)

MALAYALAM

BRIDE WANTED– Christian Preferred from in and around Alappuzha, Kerala Groom 38,MBA, Business Beejees Carz Settled in Chennai.Ct:99443 48378

RC KERALITE Bachelor 38 Bank Officer settled in Chennai. Looking for suitable match. Interested members please contact: 8697421740

TAMIL

CSI TAMIL, God Fearing, Handsome, Clean habits, B.Tech., PGDM, 28 Years, MNC, Parents seek alliance from suitable God Fearing, Homely, Well qualified and employed Brides from good families Mobile/WhatsApp: 7200309111 / 9444002036

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Age 28, M.Sc, MS, Operations Coordinator, Need any tamil or malayalam bride. Ct 8138900487

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN VELLALAR Age 57 PG Central Govt., Superintendent Teetotaler Never Married seeks bride Church no bar Ct: 98941 22202.

ENGINEER, 55/183, unmarried, own company, Bangalore, seeks graduate lady below 50. Mob 86989 66952.

TAMIL

BTech Bits Pilani 183cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC Bangalore Sal 65 lacs seeks Bride from same, Allied castes, Tamil, Telugu Contact: 7382620365

SCAD 42 Yrs BE MBA Central Government Bank AGM transferable Post. Legally divorced no child, seeks bride below 41 divorcee without Child. Caste No Bar. Ph: 8870315039.

HINDU, GOUNDER, Age 32, MBA Graduated, Working as manager in a private sector, Need educated Gounder Bride. Ct 8138900498

CASTE-NO-BAR, TAMIL, Naidu 29/176, MS, handsome boy, working in an MNC in Germany seeks Good-Looking, working bride willing to move to Germany. The girl must be from a well-educated, upper middle class family. Contact: 98420 13591.

TAMIL

Hindu BC Girl, 26years / 168cms MBBS, M.D.(Dermatology) working in Chennai well settled family seeks suitable qualified Professional / Business Groom Ct: 86680 06323/ 98401 23619

TELUGU

TELUGU BRAHMIN Girl 30yrs, M. Arch, working in Australia seeks suitable groom. Contact: 81487 77931.

SEEKING NAIDU groom, well educated born not after 1987 for a smart research scholar born August 1990 hailing from a respectable family. Contact: 9790908109

RICH KAMMA Naidu, 29yrs, MBBS, MD, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

HINDU CHENNAI based Balija Naidu bride Mesham B.E., MBA, Private job. Working parents. Ct: 9841369251

TELUGU

SEEKING GROOM Chettiar / Naidu for a religious home loving fair complexion divorcee born 1990 with a girl child 7 years from a respectable family. Contact: 9840091267

RICH NAIDU, 24yrs, B.Tech, Running Own Transports, Resorts & Complex, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct: 6385293227

RICH NAIDU, 27yrs, B.Tech, Business Family background, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 6385293227

RICH NAIDU, 28yrs, MBA, well Educated Family background, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9962791888

BALIJA NAIDU 27yrs/172cm, M.Sc (C.S), Visakam, 3rd Padham, Thulam Rasi, Fair, seeks Professional Groom. Ct: 94452 29864 / 044 - 42875069

Naidu Girl, 91 Born/ 162cm, MBBS, MD, Simham/ Magam, seeks suitable MD, MS, CA Groom. Ct: 80722 14843

URDU

SMU PROFESSIONAL Parents Invite Alliance for their Daughter B.Des, 27yrs, 165cm.Hijabi from Well Settled Groom, Preferably Working Abroad.(Australia,UK,UAE & Qatar) Early Marriage Preferred.Contact: 9940119786

DEC 1996 born, Ht: 170 cm, Doctor of Pharmacy, fair & beautiful girl from Syed family, religious, speaker, poet, author, expert in many languages, working in Scotland, looking for Abroad settled boy. Brokers excuse. WhatsApp: 7619414388

URDU MUSLIM BE, MIT 26 yrs fair IT professional 1.5 L/mth divorced 4 mths, seek religious, well educated groom, 9940556050

SMU BRIDE 1990 Fair Slim MNC Employed Engineer. Seeks Groom Professional, Educated Family. Ct: 9176006218

J.THALATH RANA 24,Urdu, Muslim, Thanjavur, Divorcee, HR in MNC (Trichy), Contact : 75399 94252.

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Bridge across Sharavati backwaters to be inaugurated in monsoon

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

Residents of Karuru and Barangi hoblis in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district have reason to cheer. Their long-pending demand for a bridge across the Sharavati backwaters – dating back to the 1960s – is about to be fulfilled. A cable-stayed bridge is in the final stages of construction and is expected to be inaugurated during the coming monsoon.

The bridge connecting Ambaragodlu and Kalasavalli villages is expected to significantly reduce the distance from Sagar to the villages around Sigandur, a place known for the Chowdeshwari temple.

A view of the bridge across Sharavati backwaters in Sagar taluk of Shivamogga district. The bridge will help people in Karuru and Barangi hoblis in Sagar taluk. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thousands of people from different parts of Karnataka visit Sigandur every year.

All these years, residents of the island spread over the hoblis have had to either travel a long distance by road or cross the Sharavati backwaters on ferries to reach the taluk headquarters - Sagar. The ferries do not operate after evening. The villagers found it difficult to reach hospitals during an emergency.

The villages lost road connectivity with Sagar and other places following construction of Linganmakki dam in the 1960s. Hundreds of families were displaced, and vast tracts of land were submerged in the backwater.

Since then, the people have been demanding a bridge.

A barge ferrying pilgrims and their vehicles on Sharavati river backwaters to Sigandur in Shivamogga district. FILE PHOTO

The extra-dosed stay cable segment bridge is 2,140 metres long, the carriageway is 11 metres wide and accommodates two lanes. There is a 1.5-metre-wide footpath on both sides.

The total cost of the project was ₹456.67 crore. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has named it National Highway 369E.

Shivamogga Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra told *The Hindu* that the project was in the final stages and would be opened in the coming rainy season. "During my recent meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, I requested him to inaugurate the project. He has invited Minister for Road Transport Nitin Gadkari as well. The contractor has time till the end of August to complete the project. A team of senior officers inspected the project. As the cost of the project is above ₹100 crore, the PMO has to be informed about the status, which has been done," he said.

Mr. Gadkari laid the foundation stone for the project in 2018

Ferries to be retained

Mr. Raghavendra wishes to retain the ferries operated by the Inland Water Transport Department. "The ferries are a special attraction for tourists. Those visiting the Sigandur temple wish to cross the backwaters by ferry. They may send their vehicles by road and cross the backwater by the ferry. We will manage to get new ferries, as those operating at present are quite old," he added.

Congress leader and former Minister Kagodu Thimmappa visited the construction site recently and expressed happiness on completion of the bridge. He thanked Mr. Gadkari for sanctioning the project, and said it would help people who had been suffering for decades.

'Curb the spread of fake news on social media platforms on priority'

Siddaramaiah directs police officers to regularly fact-check news and act against people who spread false information

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday chaired a high-level meeting with all senior police officers and directed them to curb the spread of misinformation campaigns and fake news on social media platforms on priority.

Indo-Pak tension

The meeting was held in the light of the tension between India and Pakistan, after a deadly terror attack in Pahalgam.

In the meeting attended by Home Minister G. Parameshwara, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge, and Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, the Chief Minister directed officials to regularly fact-check news and take stringent action against people who spread fake news on various media channels.

Security reviewed

He reviewed security across Karnataka and decided to tighten measures in prominent places, public places, power plants, and the coastal region.

In a videoconference with police commissioners, SPs, and State-level officers, the Chief Minister said that maintaining law and order and ensuring safety of the people should be the top priority.

He told police officers to be vigilant for preventing illegal hoarding of commodities and attempts to hike prices in the market. Instructing the police to conduct drills at prominent places in the State, he told police to ensure safety of sites/places which are of national prominence.

Royal exercise: A drill — Operation Abhyas — was designed and simulated at the Mysuru palace on Saturday to test the efficacy of all players in the district administration who will be at the forefront during a real-life crisis. M.A. SRIRAM

On the recent murder of Hindutva activist Suhas Shetty in Mangaluru, the Chief Minister asks police officials to update the list of criminals and those who indulged in communal violence

On intelligence system

Noting the necessity of strengthening the intelligence system, Mr. Siddaramaiah told police officers to ensure safety and security of the people at public places such as bus stands, railway stations.

The Chief Minister said all fire and emergency stations and helplines should be ready to provide services round-the-clock in all district headquarters.

He stressed the necessity of strengthening the civil defence system and suitable training to handle emergency situations. He told police officers to recruit more volunteers in the civil defence.

In coastal belt

He instructed all commissionerates to be on alert, tighten security at power stations and to prvent gatherings in large numbers. The police were told to be vigilant at prominent places in the coastal belt of Karnataka.

Noting the recent murder of Hindutva activist and rowdy sheeter Suhas Shetty in Mangaluru, the Chief Minister asked them to update the list of criminals and those who indulged in communal violence.

Association warns medicines are being routed to State via unauthorised channels

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Alleging that medicines are increasingly being routed into Karnataka from external markets through unauthorised distribution channels, the Bangalore District Chemists and Druggists' Association (BDCDA) has demanded "ethical pharmaceutical distribution" in Karnataka.

In a letter to all pharma manufacturers, BDCDA president B. Thirunavukkarasu has said these unauthorised movements often bypass company-appointed carrying and forward agents (CFAs) and stockists.

"This is posing grave risks, including entry of spurious medicines, tax evasion, regulatory noncompliance, MRP manipulation, and grey market dilution apart from undermining ethical chemist operations," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Thirunavukkarasu said that a particularly alarming trend is the rise of semi-wholesalers, substockists, and third-party procuring agents who are operating without official authorisation, offering deep discounts and unethical trade incentives to retailers.

"Diverting products across States or sourcing them from untraceable sources by bypassing the company's approved stockist network is creating price wars that destabilise market integrity. Such practices directly endanger public health, threaten company reputation, and create legal liabilities for all involved," he said.

He explained that many of these semi-wholesalers, sub-stockists, and third-party procuring agents are becoming instrumental in routing pharmaceutical products to quick commerce and e-commerce platforms, often bypassing the regulatory framework and authorised distribution channels.

"These online platforms may unknowingly stock diverted or unauthorised medicines due to the lack of traceability in sourcing. This undermines the role of licensed pharmacies, destabilises price discipline, and significantly increases the risk of unsafe or spurious medicines reaching the public," he said.

In the letter, Mr. Thirunavukkarasu has alleged that there is a growing suspicion that certain medical representatives and field managers may be indirectly encouraging unauthorised supply linkages in an attempt to achieve monthly sales targets and qualify for incentives or promotional bonuses.

"Such field-level actions, even if isolated, erode the supply chain's integrity and must be addressed urgently through internal audits and accountability mechanisms. We urge all pharma manufacturers to audit and cleanse your distribution network, verify all points of sale and route compliance in Karnataka. Besides, digital tracking systems should be implemented," the letter stated.

The letter also urges all manufacturers to ensure no unauthorised third-party agents are procuring or redistributing products. This can be done by discontinuing supplies or incentives to any stockist found to be enabling semi-wholesalers, sub-stockist, and third-party procuring agents or grey market channels, the letter stated.

"Besides, all medical representatives and sales managers should be guided to report unauthorised market movement. The field force should be sensitised on the risks of short-term gain," he added.

UGCET-2025 document verification: Special provision for J&K students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Owing to military tensions along the border, students from Jammu and Kashmir appearing for UGCET-2025 will be given another opportunity to complete their document verification process. There is no need to panic, said H. Prasanna, Executive Director of the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA).

In a press statement, he revealed that out of 204 students from Jammu and Kashmir who appeared for this year's CET, only 52 have been able to complete the document verification so far.

Considering the prevailing conditions in the border region, KEA will offer these students an additional chance. If the situation does not improve within the next 10 to 15 days, document verification will be facilitated through video conferencing to ensure that students are not inconvenienced in any way. "All affected candidates have been individually informed," he added.

A view of the Karnataka Examinations Authority building in Bengaluru.

DKS: Don't celebrate my birthday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday appealed to his party workers and followers not to celebrate his birthday (May 15) in view of the tension at the border.

"I am not in town on May 15 and I appeal to all not to visit my residence or office to wish me. I request everyone to respect my sentiment and not misconstrue my intentions given the situation at our border," the statement said in a statement made before ceasefire was declared.

He also appealed to the party leaders, party workers, followers and fans not to put up flexes, banners, hoardings or advertisements on May 15.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

V. GANAPATHY SUBRAMANIAN
(GANAPATHY AGENCIES, CHENNAI)
Attained lotus feet of Lord Shiva on 05.05.2025 (Monday), 10th day Rituals on 14.05.2025 (Wednesday) at Gnanavapi, T. Nagar, Chennai
Deeply Mourned by : Relatives, Family and Friends

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"MANO"
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From:
Bhagyalakshmi Steels,
Khanna Holidays,
World Travels,
Sahakar Nagar
Sri Sai Steels & Cements,
Dr. Shivaram Karanth Nagar,
Family, Relatives, Friends & Staff.

THE HINDU GROUP
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LEAGUE
DAY 51
Play now & start winning!

1. In a thrilling final of the 2023 SAFF Championship, which team did India defeat in a penalty shootout to clinch the title?
2. Which Indian Super League team's logo features a blue Gandaberunda, the mythical two-headed bird?
3. Which footballer is the third-highest active international goal scorer—behind Messi and Ronaldo—with over 90 goals to his name?

*T&C apply.
Scan QR code or visit newsth.live/SSIPLPA to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.
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PHOTOS: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Meeting point: Narayan Lakshman, Curator of The Huddle, and Opinion Editor, *The Hindu;* N. Ravi, Director, Kasturi and Sons Ltd; and N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, with Vetri Maaran, Director, Producer and Screen Writer, in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Rapt attention: Delegates listening to a session at The Huddle in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Unique show: Talk and Performance by Vipul Rikhi on 'Beyond love and hate: Kabir's message of non-duality', at The Huddle.

Time to discuss: Delegates and others during a break between sessions at The Huddle.

Cinema cannot escape politics, says Vetri Maaran

Vivek M.V.
BENGALURU

Filmmaker Vetri Maaran, known for dealing with political themes and social commentary in his films, on Saturday said cinema cannot escape politics. Speaking at The Huddle, Mr. Vetri Maaran said every film makes a political statement, directly or indirectly.

"Man is a political animal. The way you dress, talk, or what you read has politics in it. Every film is political," said the filmmaker in a conversation with film critic Baradwaj Rangan in a session titled "Let's get gritty: Indigenous cinema in a mainstream environment".

"An overtly political movie isn't as political as the one that subtly insinuates politics. When you put out something openly, the average movie goer may or may not take it because he knows what's coming at him. On the other hand, people get influenced by ideas like chauvinistic expressions of a man or the role of women in a relationship, because they don't come with a tag of being political. People accept such themes without resistance," he said.

Speaking about the two-part *Viduthalai*, his most politically charged project to date, Mr. Vetri Maaran said he wished he had more time to make *Viduthalai Part 2*. "My biggest lesson from the project was that as a director, you should not allow anyone to determine how long it will take to make your movie. I should have taken my time. Ideally, I would have liked an additional three- or four-month period to work on the project," he said.

While he has no plans to continue the *Viduthalai* series, Mr. Vetri Maaran said *Vada Chennai* was his only unfinished project yet.

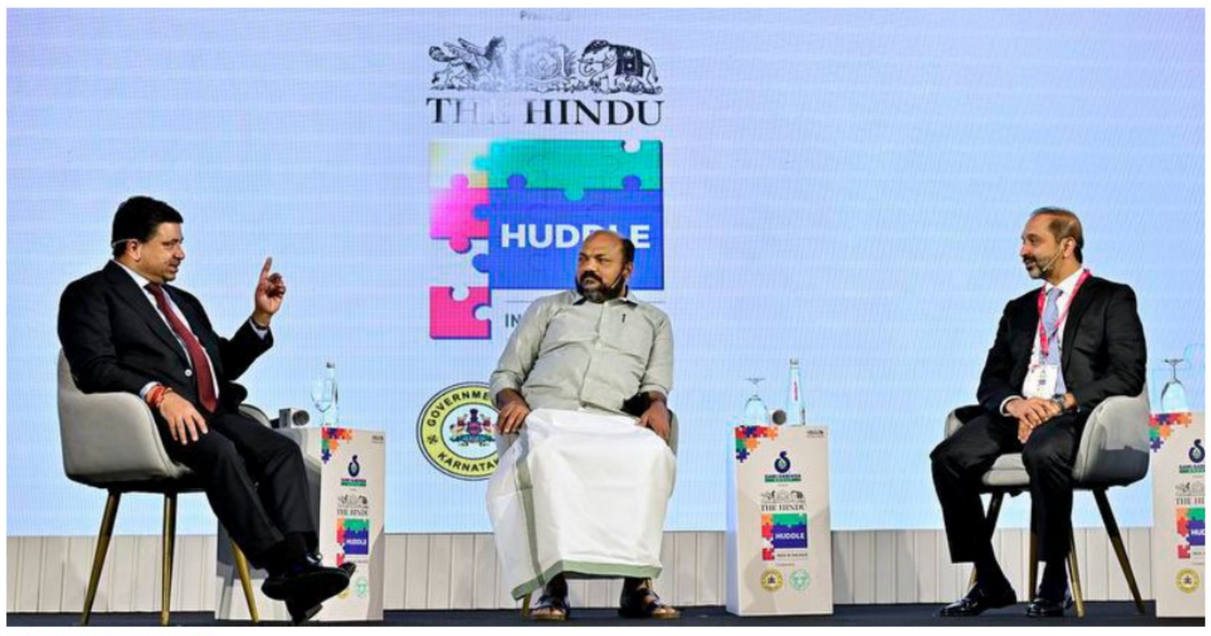
The filmmaker is set to collaborate with Suriya for *Vaadivaasal*. The movie is based on the novel by the late C.S. Chellappa.

Talking about the expectations from the project, he said, "I don't want to get caught in the entire exercise of responding to expectations. Between my last film and my next project, I am only working towards giving my 100% towards my work."

Centre can't dictate policies of States, says Tamil Nadu Minister Thiagarajan

Echoing similar sentiments, Kerala Minister P. Rajeeve says Centre is taking away all powers and encroaching upon States' domain; both the Ministers exchange their views on a spectrum of issues such as devolution of funds, delimitation exercise, Centre-State relationship, the role of the Governor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU



Governance concerns: Tamil Nadu Information Technology Minister Palanivel Thiagarajan and Kerala Law Minister P. Rajeeve with Narayan Lakshman, Curator, The Huddle, and Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*, on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Union government cannot dictate the States' policies as the elected governments in the States get to decide for themselves within the realm of the Constitution, Tamil Nadu Minister for Information Technology and Digital Services Palanivel Thiagarajan said on Saturday.

"Government of India nowhere gets the power to tell us what our priorities are. They are trying to dictate to us. The Constitution is clear about Government of India cannot be dictating State's policies. If you try to do all things from Delhi because you are power hungry, you will fail," the Minister said at a panel discussion on "More than a sum of parts: Reimagining India's federalism", moderated by Narayan Lakshman, Curator of The Huddle, and Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*.

Echoing similar sentiments, Kerala Law Minister P. Rajeeve said: "The Parliament cannot fix the borrowing limits of the State. It does not have power to regulate universities. Centre is taking away all powers and encroaching upon the States' powers." Some Governors are living in colonial era, and unfortunately nobody during the discussion in Constituent Assembly could predict that this kind of people will become Governors, he said, hitting out at the overreach of the Governors in the States ruled by non-BJP parties.

Range of issues

The two leaders exchanged their views on a spectrum of issues, such as devolution of funds, delimitation, Centre-State relationship, and the role of the Governor and language, over which the southern States are at loggerheads with the Union government.

Asking when was the last time that a Governor spoke about the issues pertaining to his State, Mr. Thiagarajan said that though the money was coming from the States, the Centre was limiting the divisible pool by charging cess and surcharges that were not divisible. "The Centre is using Article 293 and provisions in back-to-back loan to limit the borrowing limits of the State. We are capable of handling our finances. Who is questioning the Centre when the fiscal deficit is going through the roof?"

On delimitation

On the delimitation exercise, Mr. Rajeeve said: "We are not against delimitation, but a proportion should be maintained when the number of seats is increased. Equal representation has to be provided. It will be unfair if development index and population control is not considered and South's representation is reduced."

Seeking a 30-years freeze on delimitation, the Tamil Nadu Minister said that States that successfully implemented population control were being punished. "Whichever party dominates the Hindi heartland has the potential to be in power. Importance of other 26 States will be inconsequential. The States that would benefit in redistribution of Seats are the Hindi heartland States that are already securing benefits. What more do they expect with more and better representation? Tall leaders of the country in their wisdom decided to freeze the delimitation exercise."

He pointed out the equitable representation in the Goods and Services Tax Council irrespective of the contribution of States to GST pool or the population size.

'India can be strong, plural nation with its multiplicity of languages'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Of many tongues: Historian A.R. Venkatachalapathy and Laxmikant Deshmukh, Head, Maharashtra language panel, with Varghese K. George, Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, Delhi. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

India, which has had a certain civilisational unity despite having no dominant language, can continue to be a thriving democratic, plural society and a strong nation with its multiplicity of languages that have long histories and are deeply rooted, A.R. Venkatachalapathy, historian, author and Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies, said at The Huddle on Saturday.

Rather than forge unity, any attempt to impose a single language often ends up weakening its identity, he said at the session on "Vox populi: Language and identity wars shaping our culture".

Opening his remarks about language being central to cultural identity for over a millennium, he said many social movements were deeply rooted in language. Even the Bhakti movement was strongly rooted in language, as it was a protest against the hegemony of Sanskrit and Brahminical rituals in many parts of the country. While the Dravidian languages remained linguistically distinct from Sanskrit and others part of the Indo-European language family, the regional languages grew with devotional movements, which developed all over India around the turn of the second millennium in opposition to Sanskrit, Mr. Venkatachalapathy said.

Historically, Indian nationalism during the struggle for Independence became stronger and evolved into a mass phenomenon when the regional languages developed, and the message of the nation was propagated through various regional languages. Talking about the debates in the Constituent Assembly, he said the people who were committed to the cause of the nation refused to give an unfair advantage to Hindi by making it the only official language.

To a question on the purity of languages, he said languages evolved organically and did not exist in isolation. "In the last 100 years, Tamil, Malayalam, etc. have become largely secularised. From languages heavily influenced by the religious idiom, they have become extremely secular. Tamil is no longer indebted to Shaivite religion, it's a democratic language with various religious and regional influences. We cannot artificially preserve languages in a pure form," he said.

Laxmikant Deshmukh, Chairperson of the Language Consultation Committee, Maharashtra, said it was irrational on the part of the State government to "impose Hindi as a third compulsory language from the Class 1", as it went against the National Education Policy, 2020, which stipulated the introduction of a third language only from Class 6.

Outlining Maharashtra's linguistic history, which aimed to establish Marathi, the language of the people, equally as the "language of knowledge", he said Marathas had no issue with speaking Hindi, but attempts at cultural dominance were worrisome.

Mr. Deshmukh said one language and one religion would not work in India because the Hindu religion was diverse across regions.

Varghese K. George, Resident Editor, *The Hindu*, Delhi, moderated the session.

Trend of pan-India filmmaking is a massive scam, says Anurag Kashyap

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap pulled no punches on Saturday as he described the trend of "pan-India" filmmaking as a "massive scam".

Speaking at a session titled "North and South: Big divide to growing chasm in Indian cinema", Mr. Kashyap, known for movies such as *Dev D* and *Gangs of Wasseypur*, said a film could be anointed "pan-India" only when it had become successful across the nation, and not before.

The session was moderated by film critic Baradwaj Rangan.

Films such as *Baahubali, KGF*, and *Pushpa* pulled large crowds and shattered box-office benchmarks, setting in motion a desire to emulate their style and staging across industries. This reverse-engineering is disingenuous, and, at times, a way to inflate budgets and fees, Mr. Kashyap said.

"'Pan-India', in my opinion, is a massive scam," he said. "A film goes into production for three or four years. A lot of people are surviving on that film and their lifestyle also depends on it. All the money doesn't go into the film.

Behind the screen: Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap and film critic Baradwaj Rangan speaking on Saturday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

And the money that does, it is spent on these massive, unreal sets that do not make sense. And only 1% of it works."

Often, the films that actually become successful have "zero-expectations" riding on them, said Mr. Kashyap, citing the example of *Stree*.

"*Uri: The Surgical Strike* became a success and everyone started doing nationalistic films. Post-*Baahubali*, everybody want to do these big movies with Prabhas or somebody else. *KGF* became a success and everyone wants to emulate that. That's where the decline of storytelling begins," he said.

Decoding the phenomenon of S.S. Rajamouli, whose last film, *RRR*, was a raging global hit, Mr. Kashyap said the fan base of the visionary Telugu filmmaker had been steadily expanding since the days of *Eega*. He compared Mr. Rajamouli to South Korean director Bong Joon Ho, whose *Parasite* won the Academy Award for Best Picture, but who has been establishing his credentials since the cult classic *Memories of Murder*.

Streaming platforms are 'dumbing down' their shows and films to ensnare average consumer, he says

"Much before *RRR* released, I predicted that it would be the film that will break out from India. I travel to international film festivals and I have had filmmakers from Belgium, Switzerland, and all across requesting me to tell them more about Rajamouli. Two of them, in fact, came down to Mumbai and then visited the sets of *RRR* for a week."

On streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video "dumbing down" their content to ensnare the average consumer, Mr. Kashyap said the output of these streamers in India had become "worse than television". Their interest in backing meaningful and discerning content took a sharp tumble post the pandemic, he opined.

"These companies are coming into India because data is the new oil. In a country of 1.5 billion, they want to maximise their subscription," Mr. Kashyap said. "They want to reach out to everyone and not offend anyone. They are not trying to create art but 'content'. They are happy with people watching shows on smartphones."

Mr. Kashyap recently made headlines for his strong comments supporting the film *Phule*, a biopic of social reformers Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule, which faced opposition from Brahmin groups.

"We are living in times of great offence," he said. "Everybody gets offended too often. So you have to walk very carefully."

Regionalism is going to be important in emerging world order, says Ranil

The former Sri Lankan President moots the idea of India taking the lead in ensuring the emergence of South Asia as 'most powerful region'; former UN envoy T.S. Tirumurti stresses need for the country to become a net provider of prosperity to the region by opening up its economies to others

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Global focus: T.S. Tirumurti (left), former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, and Ranil Wickremesinghe, former President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, with Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Maintaining that "regionalism" is going to be important in the emerging world order, former President and Prime Minister of Sri Lanka Ranil Wickremesinghe has mooted the idea of India taking a lead in ensuring the emergence of South Asia as the "most powerful region".

Participating in a session titled "In the hood: The new forces shaping subcontinental geopolitics" at The Huddle here, Mr. Wickremesinghe observed that the South Asian region would account for a population size of 2.7 billion as against the total world population of 9.8 billion, while its combined economy would be around $43 billion.

"You will have three nuclear powers in this region. This is going to be the most powerful region in the world," he said, while adding a rider: "We can do so if we get out of the traditional mindset."

He said geopolitics was witnessing a great shift. "We had a unipolar world at the end of the World War II that later became bipolar [with the USSR and the U.S. being major players] and then unipolar again. It is becoming bipolar again [with the U.S. and China being the major players]." He wondered if it could become tripolar by 2050 where the U.S., China and India would be the major players, particularly with India expected to be the third biggest economy by then.

Common threads

Mr. Wickremesinghe observed that the South Asian region would be a larger commonwealth than the British Commonwealth and it had several common threads in terms of religion, culture, civilisation, literature, philosophy, and other things.

Referring to the present global scenario, he said: "We are seeing a world in which U.S. President Donald Trump has disrupted the WTO. He has challenged the global order made by the U.S. itself. It is like a cat eating the kitten. We all look upto the US as the growth engine. But it is shaken now. So regionalism is going to be more and more important." He stressed the need for the emergence of South Asia as the powerful region under the leadership of India.

Referring to the tensions between India and Pakistan, he argued that the transformation of economy should go on even amidst such issues. "Development should go on despite terrorism as it is a phenomenon we need to live with," he said.

Welcoming such an idea, T.S. Tirumurti, former Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, said: "India should take a geopolitical role that goes beyond the sub-continent. The sooner we do it, the more important it will be."

Pointing out that democracy had become more stronger in the past 15 years in the South Asian region despite problems in a couple of countries including Bangladesh, Mr. Tirumurti said the youth were playing a key role. This would help in the process of emergence of South Asia as the major regional power, he said. He stressed the need for India to become a net provider of prosperity to the region by opening up its economies to others.

India's Former National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan too hailed the idea of South Asia becoming a powerful region as the single-most important idea that he had heard in the last decade.

N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, observed that Mr. Wickremesinghe's vision for South Asia was full of hope. However, he expressed concern that there were democratic deficits.

Particularly referring to India, he said: "There is a huge democratic deficit with India. The States are being attacked. Media is being intimidated. We have a serious problem of authoritarianism."

The session was moderated by Suhasini Haidar, Diplomatic Affairs Editor, *The Hindu*.

Astha Kapoor, Co-founder, Aapti Institute; Kalika Bali, Senior Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research, India; and Tanvi Lall, Strategy, People + AI. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

AI will amplify, not replace, human capacity: experts

Varghese K. George
BENGALURU

Paranoia around rapid advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) is misplaced, and technology will only amplify, and not replace, human capacity, experts at a panel discussion said on Saturday.

The discussion titled "AI for all: Dream of a democratised and ethical technology" was moderated by author Manu Joseph and had Astha Kapoor, Co-founder, Aapti Institute; Kalika Bali, Senior Principal Researcher, Microsoft Research, India; and Tanvi Lall, Strategy, People + AI, as experts.

To think of AI as an instrument of absolute and malicious power was wrong, said Ms. Bali. "Technology can amplify human efforts both good and bad. There are questions that we need to manage right now – such as whether the data that is used to train AI is representative of the global majority, how do we ensure that models are aware of the context, how to reduce the risk of biases, etc."

'Change in nature of jobs'

The nature of jobs will change and new jobs will be created, but the new ones also will be redundant soon as technology advances, Ms. Kapoor said. "The most vulnerable jobs right now are those in the BPO industry. There will be new jobs in managing the data that is being generated. There will be chaos, and there is need for regulation, social security, skill development, and preparedness," she said.

Ms. Lall said AI has opened up the opportunity for learning for the curious people. AI and technology can take care of a range of routine work, and humans can turn their attention to creative and critical areas. The experts were of the opinion that in this phase of rapid changes, the human capacity to think critically and make sense of the cognitive overload will be of value.

Changing tides: (From left) K. Ganesh, Hemant Malik, Shravan Subramanyam and Suparna Mitra speaking with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Change will be a constant at work: industry leaders

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
BENGALURU

Employers and employees have to learn constantly, they say

The evolution of work in a fast-changing globe was discussed at length during a lively session at *The Hindu* Huddle on Saturday.

Aptly titled "Let's talk work" and moderated by L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, the free-wheeling chat dealt with the multifaceted challenges that modern offices and employees face.

First up, the elephant in the room, the emergence of Artificial Intelligence (AI), was discussed, and K. Ganesh, serial entrepreneur and partner, GrowthStory, said: "AI was transformative as creation became possible. Then you had autonomous agents in AI doing work without human prompting."

Adding heft to the conversation, Suparna Mitra, CEO of the Watches and Wearables Division of Titan Company Lid., said: "We are all on the cusp of a very big change. People joining in their early twenties are not looking at staying long in a company. And then you have machines doing work but it needs human intervention. For a lot of people, AI may be ChatGPT but surely it can play a bigger role in manufacturing."

Batting for gender equity, she added: "Women have a lot of other things going on in their life, which is not accounted for in workplace design. And at home care-work is not paid, house-work is not paid. Women do dual roles of being at the workplace and also working at home."

The concept of customer delight was analysed too when Hemant Malik, Wholetime Director, Divisional Chief Executive, Foods, ITC, said: "All of us do work from the customer perspective; can you make it cheaper and faster? There is also the personalisation aspect. Are you being transparent, are you giving the customer new experiences? Who thought 10-minute delivery was so important till it started?"

The transparency angle was also reiterated by Shravan Subramanyam, CEO, BPL Medical Technologies. "How we sell matters as much as how much we sell. To me, transparency is our best tool and it breeds accountability. Employee requirements are changing, let's just listen and learn. As for AI, it is used in radiology, surgeries and many facets of medical care," he said.

The tussle between traditional businesses and modern offshoots, climate change and the way it impacts production, storage and employee productivity, were all looked into at a granular level.

The gig economy driven by food and grocery delivery firms and the way they have changed, was also spoken about. As the session drew to a close, the summary was that change will be a constant at work and both employers and employees have to learn constantly while harnessing technology.

Health professionals worry over rising prevalence of obesity among youngsters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Dr. Preetha Reddy, Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, Dr. Anoop Misra with Ramya Kannan, Health Editor, *The Hindu*. K. MURALI KUMAR

The highly popular GLP-1 (Glucagon-Like Peptide-1) drugs such as Ozempic and Mounjaro for treating diabetes and obesity are useful for a limited number of people and will not solve the obesity or diabetes crisis that India is battling, Dr. Anoop Misra, Chairman, Fortis C-DOC Hospital for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, said at The Huddle on Saturday.

These drugs were not new, and have been around for nearly two decades, he said. However, the earlier versions had limited "weight-loss" benefits.

Some of these drugs were effective at aiding weight loss up to 20% but were still only suitable for a limited segment of people who were "terribly obese" and resistant to diet and exercise-based regimen, cautioned Dr. Misra, an acclaimed diabetologist with decades of research experience under his belt.

At the session titled "Non-communicable diseases: the Trojan horse of India's health", the panellists – Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice-Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals; Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya, health and social sector policy adviser; and Dr. Misra – agreed that sedentary lifestyles and excessive consumption of high-fat and sweetened foods were the causes of this incursion.

The session was moderated by Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau, Tamil Nadu and Health Editor, *The Hindu*. The prevalence of obesity was rising among youngsters and there was concern that were these trends to continue, the much-vaunted 'demographic dividend,' or the surplus of youth, who would power India's economic future, would become a liability, said Dr. Reddy. "We want to keep people out of hospital beds," she underlined.

Salt and sugar

Governments and public health bodies could play a role in discouraging the "two whites" – salt and sugar – whose excessive consumption was a problem but Dr. Lahariya cautioned that sugar was a source of "inexpensive calories" for a vast number of India's poor who often could not meet their daily caloric needs. Salt, he said, was an integral part of the staple Indian diet and Indians on average consume twice the World Heath Organization's recommendations.

That said, he suggested, imposing heavy taxes may not be advisable and instead there ought be better more visible warnings on detrimental health effects in packaged food.

Advising against mindlessly following health fads, Dr. Misra said that ketogenic diets' (low carbohydrate-high fat diets) ought not to be followed beyond three months. It was instead healthier to tweak regular diets to cut calories and increase protein content, he opined.

"So called gluten-free diets that cost thrice as much had no benefit. I would always recommend low-cost diets," Dr. Misra said. "There is well-founded research that cutting 15kgs can in several cases reverse diabetes."

While the challenges from diabetes were significant, Dr. Lahariya said that India was also grappling a 'mental health' crisis.

The prevalence of some form of mental health challenge was around 12% , and severe mental illness around 2%. "It is high time that public health institutions evolved a systematic response." he added. While India was a developing country, it had managed to evolve a system of health screening that was "comparable" to developed countries. "It can certainly be improved and there is a range of options available that are a 10th of what it costs in the West," Dr. Reddy said.

Sami-Sabinsa and *The Hindu* partner for Huddle 2025

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu Group partnered with the Sami-Sabinsa Group for the fifth edition of *The Hindu* Huddle, its flagship ideas conclave which has returned this year with the theme "India in Dialogue." The collaboration reflects a shared vision rooted in science, integrity, and a commitment to shaping a healthier, more informed India.

Founded by the late Dr. Muhammed Majeed, Sami-Sabinsa Group has grown into a globally recognised nutraceutical and wellness company, integrating traditional Ayurvedic knowledge with cutting-edge scientific research.

"*The Hindu* Huddle is a platform that aligns with our values – it's a space where ideas are debated with depth, not drowned in noise," said Dr. Anju Majeed, Group Executive Chairperson, Sami-Sabinsa Group.

"*The Hindu* Huddle has always been about creating space for thought-provoking, credible dialogue. Sami-Sabinsa's approach to innovation, grounded in rigorous science and Indian knowledge systems, speaks directly to our theme this year – India in Dialogue," said Narayan Lakshman, Curator of The Huddle and Opinion Editor of *The Hindu*.

***The Hindu* Huddle 2025 is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group**

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INBRIEF

Disarm Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, says Owaisi

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi described Pakistan as "official beggars" for seeking an International Monetary Fund loan, which he said would be used for militant activities. He called out to the world leaders to disarm its nuclear arsenal. "At some point, the international community, and world leaders should decide whether this country [Pakistan] should be permitted to have nuclear weapons," the Member of Parliament from Hyderabad said.

Kerala and T.N. Education Ministers set to discuss NEP

Preliminary discussions have been held with the Tamil Nadu government that shares Kerala's concerns on the National Education Policy (NEP), Kerala's Minister for General Education V. Sivankutty said on Saturday. Mr. Sivankutty said that a meeting had been planned with Tamil Nadu's Minister for School Education Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi to draw up joint legal and policy strategies to protect States' rights in the education sector.

Telangana CID nabs five more in ₹2.86 crore bank loan scam

The Telangana Crime Investigation Department arrested five more individuals in connection with a multi-crore loan fraud case involving IDBI Bank's Sathupally branch in Khammam district, taking the total number of accused in custody to seven. The scam, pegged at around ₹2.86 crore, revolves around fraudulent loans issued under the guise of agricultural and micro-lending schemes, backed by forged land records, said Director-General Shikha Goel.

Condition of Nipah patient from Kerala remains critical

The 42-year-old woman infected with Nipah virus continues to be critical despite receiving two doses of monoclonal antibody; 8 more persons from patient's contact list were tested negative

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

The condition of a 42-year-old woman infected with Nipah virus continues to be critical on Saturday despite receiving two doses of monoclonal antibody. The woman from Valanchery is under treatment at EMS Memorial Hospital, Perinthalmanna.

The patient had minor symptoms on April 25 and presented with worsened clinical symptoms on May 1 and was admitted to the EMS hospital. Her condition worsened by noon the following day and was shifted to the critical care intensive care unit, intubated and ventilated. She exhibited acute encephalitis syndrome and had classic symptoms of dengue. She tested positive for dengue and hence Nipah was not suspected. It was only when her condition did not improve that samples were sent for Nipah testing two days later.

The Nipah outbreak now reported is the seventh instance in Kerala since the first in 2018. FILE PHOTO

Eight more persons from the contact list of the Nipah patient tested negative on Saturday. So far, 25 persons in the contact list were tested negative. An additional 37 persons were included on the contact list, raising the total to 94. While 40 of them are in Malappuram district, 11 are in Palakkad and one each in Ernakulam and Kozhikode district. While 53 are in the high risk category, 41 are in low risk category.

Six persons from the high risk category are currently under treatment at different hospitals. Health officials covered 1,781 houses in and around Valanchery as part of a fever survey. As many as 52 persons were contacted through phone, and three were given psychological counselling. The Nipah outbreak now reported is the seventh instance in Kerala. The first outbreak was reported in 2018.

Support centre for transgender people will be set up at Kakkanad in Kerala: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

In a major step towards inclusive social welfare, a dedicated crisis intervention centre for transgender individuals is coming up at Kakkanad, Ernakulam. Minister for Social Justice R. Bindu announced the initiative at the Thrissur Press Club on Saturday. The centre will be inaugurated at 10 a.m. on May 12.

Under the Social Justice department, various schemes are being rolled out to ensure holistic development of transgender individuals, the Minister said.

"However, the transgender community still faces widespread discrimination, abuse, and mental trauma. From verbal abuse to physical assault and social exclusion, transgender individuals are often denied basic dignity. The new centre aims to provide immediate round-the-clock intervention and psychological support during such crises," Ms. Bindu said.

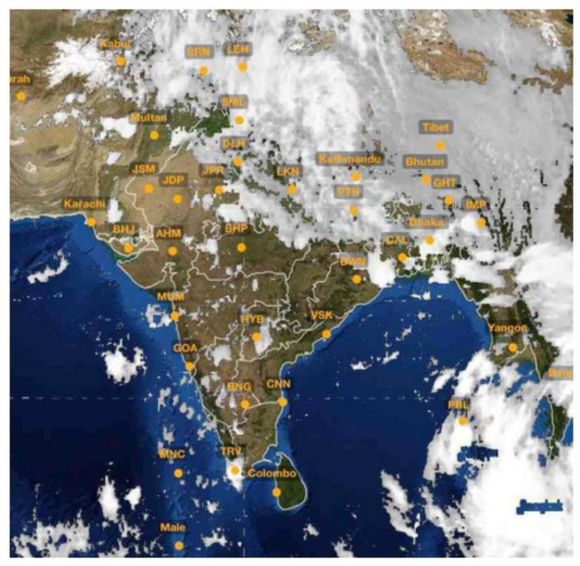
The centre, which will be run by transgender individuals, will function as a safe space for them during emergencies, offering mental health support, legal guidance, and crisis management. There will be three trained counsellors and a dedicated coordinator at the centre. It has a 24-hour helpline (1800 425 2147).

"This is not just a support system – it is a symbol of how far we've come in ensuring dignity and autonomy for the transgender community," she said.

In the previous fiscal, ₹24.75 lakh had been spent on renovating the building for the centre, she added.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and West Bengal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	38.5	28.2	Kozhikode	—	36.1	26.6
Ahmedabad	—	36.0	25.5	Kurnool	—	39.5	28.7
Aizawl	2.1	34.8	20.4	Lucknow	—	39.9	25.4
Allahabad	—	41.6	27.0	Madurai	—	40.0	27.1
Bengaluru	—	33.2	23.0	Mangaluru	—	33.6	25.0
Bhopal	3	37.2	23.2	Mumbai	5	33.5	23.5
Bhubaneswar	—	40.2	26.0	Mysuru	—	34.2	19.4
Chandigarh	—	36.6	24.2	New Delhi	—	35.9	25.8
Chennai	—	37.2	26.5	Patna	—	41.5	28.8
Coimbatore	—	36.0	24.3	Port Blair	—	32.0	25.7
Dehradun	0.2	34.9	21.7	Puducherry	—	35.8	27.8
Gangtok	6	23.9	15.5	Pune	11.2	35.4	20.4
Goa	—	35.0	29.0	Raipur	—	40.8	26.9
Guwahati	—	36.3	25.0	Ranchi	1	36.7	23.3
Hubballi	—	35.0	22.0	Shillong	0.5	28.2	18.0
Hyderabad	3	38.2	23.1	Shimla	34.5	25.8	15.0
Imphal	0.5	30.5	21.6	Srinagar	6	23.8	13.1
Jaipur	—	37.6	26.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.4	26.0
Kochi	—	33.2	26.8	Tiruchi	—	38.5	26.0
Kohima	—	20.6	19.1	Vijayawada	—	39.4	27.4
Kolkata	—	40.2	29.2	Visakhapatnam	—	35.7	28.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	7	84	15	113	109	
Bengaluru	21	34	50	60	50	
Chennai	14	19	29	76	71	
Delhi	21	126	79	217	239	
Hyderabad	9	71	31	76	70	
Kolkata	9	32	25	101	103	
Lucknow	12	59	63	98	135	
Mumbai	10	13	14	43	111	
Pune	—	81	36	42	60	
Visakhapatnam	9	38	28	60	90	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agartala, Tripura recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 336 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Miss World kicks off with a cultural extravaganza

A flag parade where each Miss World contestant carried their national flag at the Gachibowli stadium in Hyderabad. NAGARA GOPAL

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

The 72nd edition of the Miss World pageant officially began on a dazzling note at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium here on Saturday evening, with a vibrant showcase of Telangana's cultural heritage.

The event opened with the State anthem and a declaration by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who was joined by Chairperson and CEO of the Miss World Organisation Julia Morley and reigning Miss World Krystyna Pyszková.

Hundreds of individuals began arriving at the stadium from as early as 4.30 p.m., eager to witness the inauguration of one of the world's most prestigious beauty pageants.

While the event was invite-only, those who had registered through the Telangana Tourism portal also secured entry, filling the venue with an enthusiastic and diverse crowd.

The opening ceremony was a colourful spectacle of folk and tribal dance traditions from across Telangana, choreographed in a parade-style presentation that celebrated the region's rich cultural roots.

Contestants from 110 countries entered the arena in four continent-based groups, each welcomed with traditional music and dance. A standout moment was a powerful performance of Perini Natyam by 250 children, setting the tone for the evening.

A Kommu Koya band led the procession, beginning with 27 contestants from the Americas and the Caribbean. They were followed by 14 contestants from Africa, greeted with a performance by the Gond tribe.

The 33 European delegates were welcomed with the spirited Lambadi dance, and the group from Asia and Oceania, 22 in total, including India's representative Nandini Gupta, entered to the beats of the Oggu Dolu.

The ceremony culminated with a flag parade, where each contestant carried her national flag into the stadium.

The loudest applause was reserved for Miss India Nandini Gupta, who was the final participant to enter, waving the tricolour proudly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that My client **Smt. Gayathri Mohan Chellamadathil Sankaramenon w/o Ratheesh Panampilly** intends to purchase the property described in the schedule herein from **M/s SBR Marathon** (hereinafter builder/seller) The builder/seller represents and warrant that it is the absolute owner of the schedule property and it has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the builder/seller further represents and warrants that it has not encumbered, mortgaged or created any lien on the schedule property in any manner and apart from it no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property. Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within **Seven (07) days** from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my client shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

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All that piece and parcel of the Residential **3 BHK Flat No: B-503,** 5th Floor, in **"SBR MAGNUS",** measuring SBA of **1561 sqft** with **373 sqft** UDS, constructed on **Sy.No.60/18** and 60/19, converted for residential use, inclusive of proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases with 1 covered Car Parking space, Situated at **Kattamallur Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Tq,** under the limits of BBMP, Bengaluru

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 11-05-2025

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE No. HE-04-2025-26
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

SL	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Vijayapura (BJP) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs.7,50,000.00
2	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Hosapete (HPT) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 15,00,000.00
3	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Hubballi (UBL) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 40,00,000.00
4	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Ballary (BAY) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 10,00,000.00
5	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Belagavi (BGM) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 15,00,000.00
6	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Vasco-Da-Gama (VSG) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 7,50,000.00
7	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Castle Rock (CLR) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 10,00,000.00
8	Electrical Maintenance Zonal Contract at Gadag (GDG) Depot under Hubballi Division.	Rs. 15,00,000.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 04-06-2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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ಕವಿ ಮುದ್ದಣ ಮಾರ್ಗ, ಉಡುಪಿ–576 101 ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 0820–2520306
email: itstaff_ulb_udupi@yahoo.com website: www.udupicity.mrc.gov.in
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಉನಸ:ಬಿ2ಸಿಆರ್:ಟಿ.ಪ್ರ:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:07.05.2025

ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಉನಸ: ಬಿ2:ಸಿಆರ್:ಟಿ.ಪ್ರ:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ 23–04–2025ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ 24–04–2025ರ ಉದಯವಾಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ಹೊಸದಿಂಗತ ಹಾಗೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ 25–04–2025ರ ದಿ ಹಿಂದೂ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದ್ರಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 08–05–2025 ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 09–05–2025 ಎಂದು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕಾರಣಾಂತರದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮುಂದೂಡಿ, ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 16–05–2025 ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ 17–05–2025 ಎಂದು ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಪೌರಯುಕ್ತರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರ ಸಭೆ

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur Hassan District.
Short Term Tender Notification No:02/2025-26
Date: 09.05.2025

The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur-573120 Hassan Taluk Hassan Dist., As Per KW-4, invited Item rate Short term tender (Two covers) through K.P.P.Portal only vide No.02/2025-26, Date:09.05.2025 on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of KPWD Class-II and above of any State /Central Government /Public Sector organization. Details-1work, Cost put to tender amount Rs.402.15 lakhs, EMD as Prescribed in K.P.P.Portal, The contractor can have access e-tender documents from 12.05.2025 to 20.05.2025 through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by K.P.P.Portal (2)Opening of Technical bid (Cover-I) 21.05.2025 at 5.00 PM onwards. (if possible) (3)Cover-II (Financial bid) will be opened after approval of Technical bid from the competent authority. For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov. (Department).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/81/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26

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Salary commensurate with agility, experience and expertise.
Send Updated Resume to E-mail : rkishore@sjps.edu.in to reach before 15th of May '25.
Candidates can attend the interview on Saturday, the 17th of May '25. Timing : 2.00 pm to 5.30 pm

GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

अदालती सूचना
आज्ञा से : श्री ईशांक, उत्तराखण्ड न्यायिक सेवा, देहरादून।
न्यायालय, तृतीय अपर सिविल जज-(जू.डि.),देहरादून।
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श्रीमती संगीता भीमा **बनाम** श्रीमती लक्ष्मी हैना
नोटिस बनामः-
श्रीमती नीलू राकेश, पत्नी श्री एच०वी० राकेश, निवासी–174, 80 फिट रोड, होयासाला सर्किल, कंगेरी सेटेलाईट टाउन, बैगलोर साउथ, बैगलौर कंगेरी कर्नाटका । 560060 .....प्रतिवादी
उपरोक्त वादिनी की ओर से बंटवारे हेतु प्रतिवादीगण के विरूद्ध वाद प्रस्तुत किया गया है, जिसमें दिनांक 14.05.2025 वास्ते सुनवाई नियत की गयी है।
एतद्वारा आपको सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त वाद के सम्बन्ध में कोई आपत्ति हो तो वह स्वयं या ऐसे किसी अधिवक्ता द्वारा जो सम्यक रूपेण अनुदिष्ट हो, उपरोक्त नियत दिनांक 14.05.2025 को प्रातः 10 बजे तृतीय अपर सिविल जज (जू०डि०) देहरादून के न्यायालय के समक्ष उपस्थित होकर अपनी आपत्ति/प्रतिवादपत्र प्रस्तुत करें। उक्त तिथि को आपकी उपसंजाति में चूक होने पर वाद एकपक्षीय रूप से सुना जायेगा व आपके विरूद्ध अवधारित किया जावेगा। मेरे हस्ताक्षकर व न्यायालय की मुद्रा सहित आज दिनांक 06.05.2025 को जारी किया गया।
आज्ञा से–प्रबन्धक तृतीय, अपर सिविल जज (जू०डि०)– देहरादून

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Govt. of Karnataka
DEPT. OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Gundlupet, Chamarajanagar Dist. Ph. No. : 08229-222205, Gmail : thegundlupet@gmail.com

No. : TGH/GU/O.S.T./01/2025-26 Date : 07-05-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-procurement - kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Subject : Regarding the tender notification for human resource services to Taluk general hospital Gundlupet for the year 2025-26

Regarding the above subject tender is invited through e-procurement portal in double cover system for 27 - posts of Group D staffs, 01 - Junior lab technician, 01 - Data entry operator and 04 - Sweeper / Guard, total 33 staffs for the year 2025-26 for human resource service on outsource basis for the period from the date of issuing work order till 31-03-2026, from the agencies registered under the Karnataka public procurement transparency act 1999 under rule 2000. Tender details are as follows,

Tender publication number and date	No.: TGH/GU/O.S.T./01/2025-26 D: 07-05-2025
1. Estimated value of tender service 2. E.M.D. amount payable with tender in 2%	Rs. 63,61,244/- (Rs. Sixty three lakh sixty one thousand two hundred forty four only) Rs. 1,27,225/- (Rs. One lakh twenty seven thousand two hundred twenty five only)
3. Commencement date for tender uploading	08-05-2025
4. Last date for tender upload	09-06-2025 5.00 PM
5. Technical bid opening bid	10-06-2025 5.30 PM
6. Date of opening of finacial bid	13-06-2025 12.00 Noon
7. Office to be dealt with and address telephone no.	Chief Medical Officer Taluk General Hospital Gujndlupet Chamarajanagar - 571111 Email : tlhgundlupet@gmail.com Ph. No. : 08229-222205

More details can be obtained from this office except on holidays during working hours.

DIPR:CHANAGAR:62:2025-26

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer, Talluk General Hospital, Gundlupet, Chamarajanagara Dist.

From Page One

Peace deal struck, but Pak. violations persist

A senior official of the External Affairs Ministry clarified that "there is no pre-condition" or "post condition" to the stopping of firing and military action.

"This understanding is not going to affect any of the decisions that we have taken against Pakistan in the past few weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack, and most importantly, our stance on terrorism remains uncompromised by Saturday's bilateral understanding," said the official, reiterating that India has decided that any future act of terror will be considered an act of war against the country and will be responded to accordingly.

Clear message

"The message is clear this time that a terror attack like Pahalgam will not go unpunished in future," the official said.

India placed the Indus Waters Treaty "in abeyance" on April 24 after the Pahalgam attack. That apart, India revoked 14 types of visas that were issued to Pakistani citizens of different categories, sparing only the diplomatic and long-term visas (LTVs). Extending these measures, India has also frozen imports from Pakistan and nixed postal links. "These slew of measures, including the suspension of the Kartarpur Corridor remain in place," the official said.

Earlier, Mr. Misri had accused Pakistan of spreading a disinformation campaign and trying to foment communal discord in India by targeting Sikh holy places in Pakistan as well as in Punjab and Jammu.

Since the beginning of Operation Sindoor on May 7, several international stakeholders have reached out to India and Pakistan calling for de-escalation, but India has officially maintained that the two sides had not severed diplomatic contacts as both countries continued to host each other's diplomatic missions despite escalating military clashes.

Monsoon likely to reach Kerala on May 27, says IMD

It is earlier than the usual onset date of June 1; the timing of monsoon onset in Kerala does not directly correlate with total seasonal rainfall across India since it depends on various other factors

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala on May 27, earlier than the usual date of June 1, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday.

If the monsoon arrives in Kerala as expected, it will be the earliest onset over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it began on May 23, according to IMD data.

The arrival of the main rain-bearing system over the Indian mainland is officially declared when it reaches Kerala, usually around June 1. The monsoon typically covers the entire country by July 8. It starts withdrawing from northwest India around September 17 and ends by October 15.

The monsoon had set in over the southern State on May 30 last year; June 8 in 2023; May 29 in 2022; June 3 in 2021; June 1 in 2020; June 8 in 2019; and May 29 in 2018.

An IMD official said there is no direct relationship between the onset date and the total rainfall over the country during the season. "The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala does not mean it will cover other parts of the country accordingly. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features," the official said.

The IMD had, in April, forecast above-normal cumulative rainfall in the 2025 monsoon season, ruling out the possibility of El Niño conditions, which are associated with below-normal rainfall in the Indian subcontinent.

"India is likely to see above-normal rainfall in the four-month monsoon season (June to September), with cumulative rainfall estimated at 105% (with a model error of 5%) of the long-period average of 87 cm," M. Ravichandran, secretary in the Ministry of Earth Sciences, had said.

According to the IMD, rainfall between 96% and 104% of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered 'normal'. Rainfall less than 90% of the long-period average is considered 'deficient'; between 90% and 95% is 'below normal'; between 105% and 110% is 'above normal'; and more than 110% is considered 'excess' precipitation.

The monsoon is crucial for India's agriculture sector, which supports the livelihood of about 42.3% of the population and contributes 18.2% to the country's GDP. It is also vital for replenishing reservoirs critical for drinking water and power generation across the country.

Pre-season precipitation: A street near East Fort in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, submerged under water following heavy rain on Friday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

'The Wire's website unblocked after it removed article'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The law mandates issuing a notice, allowing the site to respond, and only then blocking if non-compliant

The government issued orders to unblock *The Wire* website shortly after it reached out to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the news portal said in a statement on Saturday.

The government had urged it to take down an article it had put out based on reporting by the U.S. publication CNN, it said.

While the site has taken the article down, it noted that the original CNN story remained available, and said it would challenge the decision. The website's blocking had drawn condemnation from multiple journalistic bodies, including the Press Club of India, DIGIPUB Foundation, and the Editors' Guild of India.

Due process

"I am constrained to note that under the IT Act, the procedure your Ministry should have followed was to first issue notice about the news story in question, then give *The Wire* a chance to present its views before the inter-departmental committee and only then, in the event that the IDC insists on the story's deletion, could you have taken the extreme step of blocking our website if we remained non-compliant," the site's founding editor Siddharth Varadarajan wrote to the government.

The committee Mr. Varadarajan was referring to is set up by the government, led by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, to adjudicate on blocking orders.

"The impugned story was published at 0347 on May 8 and the information it reported about was widely available at least 12 hours earlier, from CNN, whose story has remained widely available in India since then. I fail to see why the government wants our story deleted and treated it as such a matter of emergency more than 24 hours after publication that no notice was even served to us and our entire website blocked," Mr. Varadarajan said in his letter.

CBI arrests tax official in ₹70-lakh bribery case

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Jeevan Lal Lavidiya, Commissioner of Income Tax (Exemption), Hyderabad, for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹70 lakh to settle an appeal in favour of the Shapoorji Pallonji (SP) Group, officials said on Saturday.

The CBI registered an FIR against Mr. Lavidiya and 14 others and entities on allegations that the officer "in connivance with middlemen was indulging in illegal activities of obtaining undue gratification for extending illegal favours in deciding appeals in favour of the private parties," the agency said.

The agency conducted searches at 18 locations, leading to the recovery of approximately ₹69 lakh in cash, in addition to the bribe amount, the spokesperson said.

Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra ink MoU for Tapti river recharge project

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

In a significant move towards regional water security, the governments of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly implement the Tapti Basin Mega Recharge Project. The agreement, aimed at addressing the water needs of select regions in both States, was finalised following a meeting of the Madhya Pradesh-Maharashtra Inter-State Control Board held in Bhopal.

The MoU was signed by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, marking a renewed effort to harness inter-State river resources for sustainable development. The project is the third such initiative undertaken by the Madhya Pradesh government in the past year, following the Ken-Betwa link with Uttar Pradesh and the Parvati-Kalisindh-Chambal project with Rajasthan.

Under the proposed project, water from the Tapti river – which originates in Madhya Pradesh's Betul district – will be diverted to cater to the drinking water needs of north-eastern Maharashtra, including Nagpur, and provide irrigation support to southern and southeastern districts of Madhya Pradesh such as Burhanpur and Khandwa. Notably, the river is known as the Tapi in Maharashtra.

M.P. Chief Minister Yadav said consultations would be held with the Centre to seek recognition of the Tapti initiative as a national water project. He noted that the total planned utilisation of water under the scheme stands at 31.13 thousand million cubic feet (TMC), with 11.76 TMC allocated to M.P. and 19.36 TMC to Maharashtra.

"The project entails the use of 3,362 hectares of land in M.P., with no displacement of villages and no requirement for rehabilitation," Mr. Yadav said, adding that the Centre is expected to fund 90% of the project cost.

The initiative, he added, is projected to ensure permanent irrigation for 1,23,082 hectares in M.P. and 2,34,706 hectares in Maharashtra.

Describing the Tapti Basin initiative as the "world's largest recharge scheme", Mr. Fadnavis said the project had originally been conceptualised in the 1990s during his tenure as Mayor of Nagpur. He also noted that Saturday's meeting of the Inter-State Board was the first in 25 years.

"I thank Chief Minister Yadav for his proactive support in reviving this important project, which has seen sporadic inter-governmental discussions over the years," he said.

Water woes: M.P. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav with his Maharashtra counterpart Devendra Fadnavis in Bhopal on Saturday. A.M.FARUQUI

House committee on OBC welfare likely to discuss caste enumeration soon

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

With the Union Cabinet greenlighting caste enumeration in the next Census, the doors have now been thrown open for the House Panel on Welfare of Other Backward Classes to begin deliberations on the way ahead.

The parliamentary committee, headed by BJP MP Ganesh Singh, is likely to add this to the agenda of its meetings in the coming months, *The Hindu* has learned.

Members of the committee, both from the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition, told *The Hindu* that the issue of caste census had been raised in meetings of the panel from the first meeting after it was constituted last year, adding that discussions can now focus on how the caste enumeration should be done and what the government should consider as it proceeds.

Sources close to the Office of the Chairperson said the committee is prioritising discussion on the caste enumeration among its activities. They added that these deliberations will begin with a careful examination and analysis of the 1931 caste census, the last such exercise conducted.

Current status

"It will have to be seen what the 1931 Census counted and where these castes stand now. There will also be special focus on how to begin enumerating castes that have migrated since they were last enumerated," one committee member told *The Hindu*.

Another member, Chhattisgarh MP Vijay Baghel said that the issue will see spirited discussion as soon as the chairperson brings it on the agenda, adding that the issue of difference in status of castes across States will also have to be examined.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore said: "We have been raising the issue of caste census in each of the committee's meeting ever since the first sitting. Now that the government has agreed to it, the panel will be able to have productive discussions and even members of the ruling party will welcome it."

The first member added, "The intent is for the committee to prepare a report with suggestions that the government could use as it proceeds for the exercise. It will involve speaking to stakeholders, State commissions, caste associations on how to enumerate castes and how to list out general castes among other issues."

CBI arrests five for selling SIM cards 'without approval'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested five persons on the charge of selling SIM cards without authorisation. The action was taken during searches at 42 locations in eight States as part of the ongoing 'Operation Chakra-V' against transnational organised cybercrime syndicates.

Searches were carried out at 38 premises of point-of-sale agents of telecom operators, allegedly providing SIM cards to cybercriminals, in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. They were being used for illegal activities, including 'digital arrest' scams, impersonation, fraudulent advertisements, and investment/UPI frauds.

During the operation, incriminating documents and articles, including mobile phones, electronic devices, copies of KYC (Know Your Customer) and identification papers of individuals, including middlemen, involved in the distribution of unauthorised SIM cards were seized, the agency said.

"The action is part of ongoing commitment of the government of India to severely deal with cybercrime and its perpetrators with a special emphasis on dismantling the infrastructure behind such offences," the CBI said.

Excess deaths in 2020-21 more than expected, lower than in many nations: Health Ministry

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Excess deaths in 2020 and 2021 were not equal to deaths directly caused by COVID-19, a senior Union Health Ministry official said on Saturday, referring to new data from the country's official record of births and deaths.

The latest Civil Registration System (CRS) data indicates about 21 lakh more deaths were registered in 2021, the year when the deadly Delta wave of COVID-19 struck, compared with 2020.

"India's cumulative excess mortality for 2020 and 2021 was 9.3% higher than the expected deaths, a figure lower than that of the U.S., Italy, and Russia," the official said.

A World Health Organization (WHO) report had estimated India's 'excess deaths' for the period at 47 lakh.

Stating that the number of deaths documented in the CRS has been increasing over time, even in the years preceding the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, the official said that preliminary analyses of the CRS data to assess cumulative deaths in 2020 and 2021 had been carried out.

"Based on a 6.42% annual increase in deaths from 2016-2019, expected deaths were about 81.3 lakh in 2020 and 86.5 lakh in 2021. Observed deaths were 81.15 lakh in 2020 and 1.02 crore in 2021, resulting in excess deaths of about 15.5 lakh over two years, or 1,249 excess deaths per million population," the official said.

CRS data shows that 1,249 excess deaths per mn population were reported during this period

'Several reasons'

The source further explained that the increase in deaths registered in the CRS could be attributed to several reasons, including population cohort, improved reporting processes, and increased awareness of the need for registration.

This trend has been further accentuated by mandatory requirements for death certificates linked to pension schemes, social security benefits, and property issues. Moreover, the official said, compensation for death by COVID-19 required death certification, prompting registration under the CRS. These excess deaths include reported COVID-19 deaths (4.81 lakh by end 2021), unreported COVID-19 deaths, deaths from other causes, and indirect pandemic effects.

Excess mortality percentages were higher in many high-income countries- 17.6 % in the U.S., 11.8% in Italy and the U.K., and 29.9% in Russia. Excess mortality in middle-income countries was found to be 43.6% in Mexico, and 12.6% in Brazil. As stated, the corresponding figure for India was 9.3%, the official said.

"When expressed differently, India's 1,249 excess deaths per one million deaths was much lower than in the U.S. (3,021 per million), Italy (2,573), the U.K. (1,874), and Russia (7,240), but higher than that of Canada (825) and Germany (1,214)," the official said.

The CRS in India is a compulsory, independent, and universal system for recording all births and deaths under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. These events are reported to the local Registrar, based on which each State generates its respective report. The collated data from the State reports is published as the annual 'Report on Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System'.

CA exams to be conducted from May 16 to 24: ICAI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The CA exams, which were postponed in view of the security situation in the country, will now be conducted from May 16 to 24, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has announced.

The ICAI had earlier this week announced postponement of the exams.

"In view of the favourable developments in security situation in the country, it has been decided that CA Final, Intermediate and INTT-AT (PQC) examinations earlier scheduled to be conducted from May 9 to 14 will now be held from May 16 to 24," the ICAI stated in a notification late on Saturday.

Displaced people along LoC trickle back home

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Displaced border residents on Saturday evening began returning to their villages near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Kashmir Valley after India and Pakistan agreed to end hostilities, a development widely hailed by Jammu and Kashmir political parties.

Official figures show over 100 families had left parts of Baramulla's Uri tehsil due to intense shelling by Pakistan in the preceding two days. Over 55 displaced families continue to reside in makeshift shelters in Uri.

In the Jammu region, Poonch and Rajouri districts suffered the most in the recent conflict between India and Pakistan. Nearly 20 civilians lost their lives in these two districts due to shelling by Pakistani troops.

Jammu and Kashmir political parties hailed India and Pakistan for arriving at a ceasefire agreement. Welcoming the development, J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said, "...Better late than never, but had this ceasefire come two or three days earlier, perhaps the bloodshed we saw and the precious lives we lost would have been saved."

Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq remarked that better sense had prevailed with India and Pakistan agreeing to end hostilities.

Govt. says peace deal was struck without mediation

Officials say the the two countries reached an understanding 'directly', appearing to refute U.S. statements on brokering a deal; add that there is no plan to hold bilateral talks at any neutral place

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

High-level meet: Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, NSA Ajit Doval, and the three Service chiefs meet at the PM's residence. PTI

The Union government said here on Saturday that the the Directors-General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan "directly" had reached an understanding to end hostilities.

However, the first intimation of the cessation of hostilities between New Delhi and Islamabad came not from either capital but from Washington, where U.S. President Donald Trump claimed credit for the U.S. mediation of the conflict.

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif thanked Mr. Trump and the United States for "facilitating the outcome", which, he said, Pakistan had "accepted in the interest of regional peace and stability".

Like in 2019 conflict

Mr. Trump posted a statement on his Truth Social account about half an hour before the announcement of ceasefire was made by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. It was the same way the U.S. President had announced in 2019 that he had mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan and negotiated the return of Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, the Indian Air Force pilot who was captured in Pakistan, before it was announced in India.

A U.S. State Department press statement also called it a "U.S.-brokered ceasefire between India and Pakistan".

Indian officials who asked not to be named, rebutted Mr. Trump's claim that a "full and immediate ceasefire" was the outcome of "a long night of talks mediated by the United States". "Congratulations to both countries on using common sense and great intelligence," Mr. Trump said in his post.

Mr. Rubio's statement that India and Pakistan had agreed to "start talks on a broad set of issues at a neutral site", was questioned by government sources.

Officials said India and Pakistan had worked out an agreement on stopping military action "between the two countries", and said that contrary to Mr. Rubio's comment, there was "no decision to hold talks on any other issue at any other place".

Mr. Rubio, who has spoken to both sides every day since Operation Sindoor was launched on May 8, said he and U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance had spoken to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Sharif, External Minister S. Jaishankar and his Pakistani counterpart, Ishaq Dar, and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, and his Pakistani counterpart, Muhammad Asim Malik, who is the Director-General of the ISI.

Mr. Rubio spoke to Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir early on Saturday morning, after a massive escalation in the conflict, with the bombing of Pakistani airbases and drone swarm attacks on Indian military infrastructure, "to urge both parties to find ways to de-escalate and offered U.S. assistance in starting constructive talks in order to avoid future conflicts", a conversation that raised some questions about the balance of power in Pakistan.

In the past few days, leaders of several countries have spoken to New Delhi and Islamabad, calling for a de-escalation.

Saudi Arabia's Deputy Foreign Minister Adel Al Jubeir visited both capitals a day apart, and in a statement, the Saudi Foreign Ministry said the visit was part of the Saudi Kingdom's "efforts towards de-escalation, ending the ongoing military confrontation and resolving all disputes through dialogue and diplomatic channels".

Borders to remain under tight watch, no order to scale down guard: officials

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

On alert: A CRPF soldier keeps guard on the banks of the Dal Lake in Srinagar on Saturday. IMRAN NISSAR

Soon after the cessation of firing and military action between India and Pakistan was announced on Saturday evening, cross-border firing from Pakistan was reported at several locations along the Jammu border, a Border Security Force (BSF) official said.

"There was heavy firing till 7.30 p.m., and commensurate response was being given," the official said.

Earlier, amid reports of Pakistani troops moving closer to the western border, the BSF fortified its presence and the Army put its armoured units in the forward areas of Rajasthan on high alert, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

Another BSF official said that the formations had not received any instruction to scale down the deployment after the cessation of military operations was announced around 6 p.m. on Saturday and the border guarding force will be on high alert particularly in Punjab and Jammu.

Briefing mediapersons earlier in the day, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said the Pakistani military had been moving troops to forward areas. "Indian armed forces remain in a high state of operational readiness. All hostile actions have been effectively countered and responded appropriately," she said.

The BSF said on Saturday that it had destroyed a terrorist launchpad in Pakistan's Sialkot. The BSF said that from 9 p.m. on Friday, Pakistan opened fire at its posts along the Jammu border without provocation. "BSF is responding in commensurate manner causing widespread damage to assets of Pakistan Rangers," it said.

BSF personnel injured

At least eight BSF personnel were injured by mortars fired from Pakistan. Sub-inspector Mohammad Imteyaz, injured in the firing on Thursday in the RS Pura sector in Jammu, died on Saturday evening.

A senior BSF official said maximum vigilance was being maintained on the border, particularly the Samba-Kathua sector in Jammu where a day ago, seven terrorists were killed when they tried to infiltrate the country.

"In the past six months, on a stretch of 30-35 km, we dug trenches that were 15-20-foot deep followed by a mound. Earlier we had detected tunnels along this border which could have been used to sneak into the country. Other than this, surveillance tools are being used to secure the border," the official said.

The Gujarat government said on Saturday that district administrations were asked to make their village evacuation plans more comprehensive so that people residing in villages close to the Pakistan border can be relocated to safe places if necessary.

In Barmer and across Rajasthan, people were asked to stay indoors, and commercial establishments were shut down.

Pak. airbases struck, their troops seen moving to forward areas: govt.

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In one voice: Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, Naval Commodore Raghu R. Nair and Indian Army Colonel Sophia Qureshi speak during a press briefing at the Ministry of External Affairs on Saturday. AFP

Every misadventure by Pakistan has been met with strength and every future escalation will invite a decisive response, Commodore Raghu R. Nair said a news briefing here on Saturday.

The briefing was held shortly after U.S. President Donald Trump posted on social media that India and Pakistan agreed on an immediate "ceasefire" and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced that the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries had agreed that both sides "would stop all firing and military action" on land and in the air and sea with effect from 5 p.m.

Over the past few days, Pakistan has suffered "very heavy" and "unsustainable losses" after it has gone on an unprovoked attack on our installations and suffered losses in both land and air, said Wing Commander Vyomika Singh.

'Fully ready'

"We remain fully operationally ready to launch whatever operations may be required in defence of the nation," Commodore Nair said.

However, the silence of the guns was short-lived as within a couple of hours, blasts and drone sightings were reported from various locations along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir.

"There has been extensive damage to the crucial Pakistani airbases like Skardu in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Sargodha, Jacobabad and Bholari. In addition, a loss of air defence weapons system and radars made the defence of Pakistani airspace untenable," Wing Commander Singh said. With these strikes, some 10 airbases of Pakistan have been hit.

Across the LoC, India inflicted extensive and precise damage to military infrastructure and command control centres and logistic installations, while two military personnel had led to a complete breakdown of its defensive and offensive capability and also Pakistani morale, Col. Sofiya Qureshi said.

Uptick in exchanges

The military exchanges over the past three days between the two countries saw a major uptick on Friday night and Saturday morning. The Indian armed forces carried out precision attacks on military targets which included technical infrastructure, command and control centres, radar sites and weapon storage areas. They struck six air bases after Pakistan used unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), drones, long-range weapons, loitering munitions and fighter aircraft to target civilian areas and military infrastructure along the Western border.

In addition, the Pakistani military has been observed to be moving their troops into forward areas, indicating offensive intent to further escalate the situation, the government said.

"Along the IB and LoC, air intrusions and several harassment attacks were also attempted from Srinagar till Naliya at more than 26 locations. Indian armed forces successfully neutralised these threats and majority of the vectors. However, limited damage was sustained to equipment and personnel at Indian Air Force (IAF) stations at Udhampur, Pathankot, Adampur and Bhuj," Wing Commander Singh said.

"There were also several high-speed missile attacks noticed subsequently after 01:40 hours in the night at several air bases in Punjab." Indian armed forces reiterate their commitment to "non-escalation", provided it is "reciprocated" by the Pakistan military, the officer reiterated.

Identified targets

In a swift and calibrated response, the armed forces carried out precision attacks "only on identified" military targets – technical infrastructure, command and control centres, radar sites and weapon storage areas, according to Wg Cdr Singh. Pakistan military targets at Rafiqui, Murid, Chaklala, Rahim Yar Khan, Sukkur and Chunian were engaged using "air-launched precision weapons" by IAF fighter jets with the possible use of air launched BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles factoring in the distances of some of the bases from India.

"Radar sites at Pasrur and Sialkot aviation base were also targeted using precision munitions. While carrying out these responses, India ensured minimum collateral damage."

Pakistan continues with its execrable and wanton campaign of targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure, especially in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, Foreign Secretary Misri said in the morning briefing on Saturday reiterating the earlier assertion that Pakistan was deliberately targeting civilians. "There is also on its part a consistent attempt to sow discord between communities in India," he said.

Kamikaze drones sent from Pakistan neutralised by the Army Air Defence

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Danger thwarted: The debris of Kamikaze drones recovered by Indian officials from a site along the border. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Around 5 a.m. on Saturday, Pakistan launched several Byker YIHA III Kamikaze drones across the International Border towards Amritsar in Punjab. They were shot down by the Army Air Defence (AAD), according to official sources who described it as an attempt to strike densely populated residential areas.

"Thanks to the vigilance and rapid response of the AAD network, the hostile drones were detected, tracked, and engaged within seconds of breaching Indian airspace," a source stated.

"Using quick-reaction air defence guns positioned in depth along the border belt, AAD gunners brought down the drones in mid-air, ensuring that no debris fell on civilian property and that no casualties were sustained."

In a briefing on Saturday morning, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said that on Friday night, Pakistan employed unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAV), drones, long-range weapons, loitering munitions, and fighter jets to target civilian areas and military infrastructure along the International Border and the Line of Control at more than 26 locations along the western borders.

Explosive payloads

Initial analysis indicates that these Turkish-origin drones carried high-explosive payloads intended to inflict maximum damage on innocent civilians, the source stated terming it a "new low" in Pakistan's "repeated" attempts at targeting civilians.

"The prompt neutralisation of this threat underscores the effectiveness of India's layered air-defence grid, which integrates ground-based radars, electro-optical sensors and automated command and control systems," the source added.

In a briefing on Friday, the government said that on Thursday night, Pakistan attempted intrusions at 36 locations from Leh to Sir Creek with 300 to 400 drones. Preliminary examination suggested that they were Asisguard Songar armed drones from Turkiye. The drone intrusions continued on Friday night too. The wreckage of possible Turkish drones that were shot down was located in many places.

Senior officer among five civilians killed in cross-border shelling in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

J&K CM Omar Abdullah consoles the family members of Raj Kumar Thapa, who lost his life in artillery shelling, in Rajouri. ANI

Hours before the agreement between India and Pakistan to end hostilities, Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday morning was gripped by a war-like situation as five civilians, including a senior officer, were killed in shelling by Pakistani troops.

Loud blasts were reported by people as unidentifiable projectiles hit scores of houses in many urban centres, including the twin capitals of Srinagar and Jammu.

Officials said Pakistan had intensified shelling in districts close to the Line of Control (LoC) early in the morning. Among many structures, the house of Raj Kumar Thapa, Additional Development Commissioner, was hit by a long-range artillery shell. Thapa was killed and two of his staff members were injured, officials said.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah met the victim's family. "Just yesterday, he was accompanying the Deputy CM around the district and attended the online meeting I chaired. We have lost a dedicated officer," he said.

People said Rajouri town witnessed shelling by Pakistan for the first time since the 1999 Kargil war. Two non-locals including an infant suffered splinter injuries and died after a shell exploded near an industrial area in Rajouri town. In Rajouri's adjacent district of Poonch, a 55-year-old woman died after a shell exploded near her house in Poonch's Mendhar. The fifth civilian victim from R.S. Pora's Bidipur Jatta village, was killed.

INBRIEF

Junior Minister attends Victory Day fete in Moscow

India on Saturday thanked Russia for its support in India's fight against the "menace of state-sponsored cross-border terrorism." This was conveyed by Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth to Russian Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin in Moscow. Mr. Seth represented India at the Victory Day (May 8) celebrations to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the victory (against Nazi Germany and its allies) of the Soviet Union in the Second World War. He also called on Russian President Vladimir Putin and extended congratulations for the 80th Victory Day, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Railways sanctions survey for new railway line in Sikkim

The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned a final location survey for a new railway line in Sikkim. The Guwahati-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway will conduct the ₹2.25 crore survey for the project, which is envisaged to connect Melli with West Bengal, to Dentam on the India-Nepal border, a spokesperson of the railway zone said. The proposed route, about 75 km long, would be a "strategic extension" of the under-construction Sivok-Rangpo railway line, which is expected to be operational by 2027. Sivok is in West Bengal, and Rangpo is in Sikkim. Melli, a key entry point to southern and western Sikkim, is likely to serve as a junction for the proposed extension.

Murshidabad murder accused arrested from Jharkhand

The West Bengal Police arrested one Hajrat Ali on Saturday in connection to the murder of a father-son duo during communal violence in Murshidabad on April 12, Deputy Inspector General of Police in Murshidabad Syed Waquar Raza told *The Hindu*. Within a month of the murder, Ali alias Fitu, was arrested from Pakur in Jharkhand by a joint team of the Samsherganj Police Station and the Special Investigation Team formed to investigate the Murshidabad incident, Mr. Raza said. Violence had unfolded on April 11 and April 12 in Samsherganj police station area where a protest against the recently passed Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 was held.

Meghalaya group opposes ecotourism in sanctuary

A youth organisation has opposed an ecotourism project in Meghalaya's Nongkhyllem Wildlife Sanctuary, citing a potential threat to its delicate ecosystem. In a letter submitted to the State's Additional Director General of Forests (Wildlife) and the Director of Wildlife Preservation on May 6, the Hynniewtrep Youth Council (HYC) called for scrapping the planned project in and around the 29 sq. km sanctuary in Ri-Bhoi district. HYC is the second organisation to oppose the project worth ₹23.7 crore. Green-Tech Foundation (GTF), a Shillong-based environmental group, had earlier petitioned the State's Tourism Minister, Paul Lyngdoh, against the proposed project.

SUDOKU

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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Opposition parties urge Modi government to share details of ceasefire, seek all-party meeting

Congress says with 'unprecedented announcements' from Washington D.C., there is now a need for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to chair an all-party meeting and take political parties into confidence; parties seek Parliament session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

On Saturday, the Opposition parties, in response to the peace agreement announced between India and Pakistan, urged the Narendra Modi government to share details of the agreement, and demanded a special Parliament session to discuss the way forward.

Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said in view of the "unprecedented announcements" from Washington D.C., there is now a need for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to "chair an all-party meeting and take political parties into confidence".

"A special session of Parliament to discuss the events of the last eighteen days, beginning with the brutal Pahalgam terror attacks and the way forward, and to demonstrate a collective resolve," Mr. Ramesh said in a post on X.

In a press statement, the Polit Bureau of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) noted the ceasefire announcement "positively". "The people of both the countries deserve peace for their progress and prosperity. We earnestly hope that the two countries build on this and ensure that the people do not have to suffer from the evil of terrorism," the CPI (M) said, calling for steps to ensure that there is no further confrontation.

Solidarity rally: Congress workers take out a march in support of the Indian armed forces in Hyderabad on Saturday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

CPI general secretary D. Raja said that his party had consistently advocated for a ceasefire. Sharing a screenshot of U.S. President Donald Trump's post on X, Mr. Raja said, "We believe India and Pakistan have the maturity to address their issues bilaterally, without interference by Donald Trump and the USA. It is for Prime Minister Modi to tell the nation and our people what was the 'mediation' done by the USA?"

India and Pakistan have the maturity to address their issues bilaterally, without interference, says CPI

CPI(Marxist-Leninist) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya said President Trump made the announcement even before officials from India and Pakistan corroborated it.

"Wish the two regimes listened to their own people and did not leave room for American intervention. Shame on the dominant media in India and Pakistan which were busy whipping up war hysteria, spreading fake news to claim victory and celebrate and sell war as entertainment," he said. The ceasefire should be seen as the first step towards de-escalation, restoring full diplomatic relations, and bringing the perpetrators of the Pahalgam terror attack to justice, the CPI(M-L) leader added.

Taking to social media platform X, Congress MP Manish Tewari said that the U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced that India and Pakistan had agreed to hold further talks at a "neutral venue on a broad set of issues".

Saturday's development also led many Congress leaders to make a comparison between former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's "tough stance" during the 1971 war with the present crisis.

Sharing Ms. Gandhi's letter of December 12, 1971, to President Richard Nixon on his X handle, Mr. Ramesh said, "She ensured that there was no 'neutral site' which has now been agreed to". "India misses Indira," Congress leader Pawan Khera added.

Digi combat clips being falsely shown as original footage: PIB

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Fact Check Unit of Press Information Bureau (PIB) on Saturday flagged a series of social media posts, saying they were false claims. It included several combat gaming videos "being deceptively circulated as real footage of India-Pakistan conflict".

The unit pointed out that the claim that a woman Indian Air Force pilot has been captured by Pakistan was fake and that "pro-Pakistan" handles were circulating an image that was old, and available online since June 2023. Another video falsely claimed a drone attack near Basti Danishmanda in Jalandhar. The video of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was AI-generated.

The unit said one video of an Indian Air Force crash during a routine training sortie in March 2025 was used to make false claims. An old and "digitally altered" video was being circulated as footage of a Pakistani attack on the Nagrota air base. The video was originally posted on Instagram in October 2024.

"An old video is being falsely shared as footage of a missile strike on the New Delhi airport. This video shows a gas station explosion in Yemen, from August 2024," said the unit.

Five key figures of LeT, JeM killed in Operation Sindoor: security agencies

Nistula Hebbar
Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

At least five top figures of the Pakistan-based banned outfits, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), were killed during the precision strikes carried out on May 7 in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack of April 22, security agencies said on Saturday.

They include Mudassar Khadian Khas, also known as Mudassar and Abu Jundal, in-charge of the LeT's headquarters, Markaz Taiba, in Pakistan's Muridke; and JeM chief Masood Azhar's eldest brother-in-law Hafiz Muhammed Jameel, and another brother-in-law Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, who also operated under the code names 'Ustad-Ji', 'Mohammed Salim', and 'Ghosi Sahab'. Two others have been identified by Indian government agencies as Khalid of the LeT, and Mohammad Hassan Khan of the JeM.

High vigil: Paramilitary soldiers on patrol at Gingal village in Uri. AP

According to Indian agencies, Abu Jundal received a guard of honour at his funeral from the Pakistan Army, and wreaths were laid on his grave on behalf of the head of the Pakistan Army and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. Azhar's brother-in-law Jameel was in charge of the Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur, the JeM's headquarters.

Flight hijacking case

The third terrorist, Ustad-Ji, headed the Balakot training camp, the agencies said. He was also wanted for the Flight IC-814 hijacking in 1999, after which the Indian government had to release three terrorists, including Azhar, in exchange for the passengers and crew aboard the aircraft. An Interpol notice was issued against Azhar in 2000 on charges of hijacking, kidnapping, and murder.

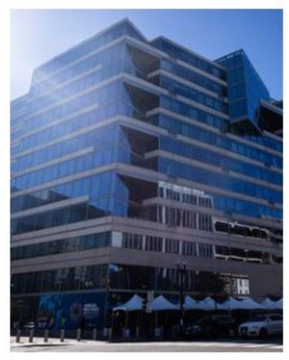
The fourth terrorist, named Khalid, aka. Abu Akasha, of the LeT was also involved in several terror attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, and was smuggling weapons from Afghanistan, according to the government agencies. His funeral, held in Faisalabad, was attended by senior Pakistan Army officials and the area Deputy Commissioner, the agencies said.

The JeM's Hassan Khan was the son of Mufti Asghar Khan Kashmiri, an 'operational commander' of the outfit in Pakistan occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK). "His funeral was held at a sports stadium," an agency official said.

'India's only option on IMF fund to Pak. was abstaining from vote'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Thursday night voted to approve $2.4 billion funding to Pakistan across two programmes. India abstained from the vote, citing Pakistan's "poor track record", the possibility that such funding could be used for state-sponsored terrorism and the fact that the IMF is bound by "procedural and technical formalities".



This $2.4 billion grant marks the 25th time Pak. has received a loan from IMF since 1948. AFP

Of the $2.4 billion, $1 billion is part of a larger $7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) extended to Pakistan in September 2025. The additional $1.4 billion is under a Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), and marks the 25th time Pakistan has received a loan from the IMF since 1948.

No provision for a 'no'

According to government sources, while India laid its grievances before the Executive Board, it was "hamstrung" by the fact that there was no provision in this decision for a "no" vote.

"You can either vote in favour of granting a loan, or you can abstain," the official told *The Hindu*. "In such a scenario, India abstained, and the Board took note of that. But given the rigid structures and rules of the IMF, the Executive Board had to go ahead and approve the loan, despite our reservations and the ongoing conflict."

A former executive director to the IMF explained further why this was the case in this particular decision. "The decision on the $1 billion was a continuation of an earlier agreement, and the additional $1.4 billion was packaged into it, and was not a separate decision," the former executive director told *The Hindu*. "Because it was a continuation, the matter was not up for a vote at all."

He added that the only way it could have come to a vote was if the IMF staff deputed to Pakistan had raised an issue with that country's lack of adherence to the agreement it had with the IMF. Since this did not happen, the matter was left to unanimous agreement, where the only option India had to dissent was to abstain.

Further, the voting system incorporates an imbalance. That is, each country does not have an equal vote. For example, the vote share of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka is only 3.05%, whereas the U.S. has a 16.49% share, Japan 6.14%, and China 6.08%. Germany, France, and the U.K. each also have higher vote shares than the grouping India is in.

The IMF, in a statement, noted that Pakistan's policy efforts under the EFF have so far delivered "significant progress in stabilising the economy" and that the economy's fiscal performance has been "strong", allowing it to remain on track to meeting the GDP target of 2.1% by the end of this year.

Kerala, Maharashtra, T.N. attain U.N. SDGs in mortality ratios, says report

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Three States in India – Kerala, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu – have attained the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets in Maternal Mortality Rate or MMR (<=70 by 2030); Under-Five Mortality Rate or U5MR (<=25 by 2030); and Neonatal Mortality Rate or NMR (<=12 by 2030), according to the Sample Registration System Report 2021 released by the Registrar-General of India earlier this week.

According to the report, eight States have already attained the MMR SDG target, including Kerala (20), Maharashtra (38), Telangana (45), Andhra Pradesh (46), Tamil Nadu (49), Jharkhand (51), Gujarat (53), and Karnataka (63).

Improvement continues in maternal and child health indicators, says report. G.N. RAO

Twelve States/Union Territories have already attained the U5MR SDG target – Kerala (eight), Delhi (14), Tamil Nadu (14), Jammu and Kashmir (16), Maharashtra (16), West Bengal (20), Karnataka (21), Punjab (22), Telangana (22), Himachal Pradesh (23), Andhra Pradesh (24), and Gujarat (24).

Six States/Union Territories have already attained the NMR SDG target – Kerala (four), Delhi (eight), Tamil Nadu (nine), Maharashtra (11), Jammu & Kashmir (12), and Himachal Pradesh (12).

India has continued to see significant improvement in key maternal and child health indicators, the report said.

A special bulletin on MMR in India in 2019-21, based on data from the Sample Registration System, found India's MMR had shown a marked reduction, declining by 37 points from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 93 in 2019-21.

The downward trend in child mortality indicators also continues.

INBRIEF

GAIL signs initial pact to set up 1 GW projects in Karnataka

GAIL (India) Ltd. has signed an MoU with the Karnataka government to explore setting up of renewable energy projects of up to 1 gigawatt (GW) in the State. Under the MoU, the Government of Karnataka would facilitate GAIL to obtain necessary permissions, registrations, approvals, clearance, etc., from the departments concerned of the state, as per the prevailing policies and rules and regulations of the state government, the company said in a statement. PTI

Global agency upgrades rating of India's long, short-term debt

Morningstar DBRS, a global ratings agency, has upgraded its rating of India's long-term and short-term debt on the basis of the country's structural reform efforts, fiscal consolidation, resilient banking system, and high potential growth rate. India's long-term rating was raised to BBB from BBB (low), while short-term rating was raised to R-2 (high) from R-2 (middle). It also noted that inflation has returned to RBI's comfort band, and that the external sector is strong.

Over 30,000 cases settled before admission in IBC: IBBI

More than 30,000 cases were settled before their admission in the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) till December 2024, covering defaults worth ₹13.78 lakh crore, a top IBBI official said on Saturday. This proves that the provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) have prompted debtors to take early action in distress situations, marking a positive shift in their behaviour, said Jitesh John, Executive Director, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. PTI

'Will take more than a year for India-U.K. FTA to kick off'

Legal vetting, a key process, will take three more months, says official; additionally, TEPA signed in March 2024 with the EFTA will take until about September-October to come into effect

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement will not come into effect for at least a year, with just the legal vetting requiring three more months, according to a senior government official. In addition, the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) with the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), signed in March 2024, will still take until about September-October to come into effect.

"The two Prime Ministers only announced the completion of negotiations on the India-U.K. FTA. It will take three more months for the text to go through the legal scrubbing that is required," the official said. "This is an important process and has to be done jointly by both the countries, and so it takes time." However, following this legal scrubbing, it will take at least one more year before the FTA can be ratified by the U.K. government since it has to still go through various levels of scrutiny there.

Miles to go: It will take at least one more year before the FTA can be ratified by the U.K. government after various levels of scrutiny. AFP

Once the text has been legally vetted and the agreement has been signed by both the countries, the U.K.'s independent Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) will scrutinise the FTA and report on whether the measures within it are consistent U.K. statutory protections for animal and plant health and life, animal welfare, and the environment.

After receiving the report, the U.K. government will then formulate its own report, which while covering much of the same topics as the TAC report, will also include scrutiny on whether the FTA affects the U.K.'s statutory protections in relation to human life or health.

It is only then that the FTA can be placed before the U.K. Parliament and ratified. All of this will likely take at least a year, the official said.

As for the TEPA with the EFTA countries, the delay in implementation is due to Swiss regulations. "The TEPA has been ratified by all four of the EFTA nations (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland)," another government official said.

"There is, however, a mandatory wait period in Switzerland where these things have to be put up for public comments for a particular period. That period will end in September-October 2025."

Adani's hydrogen fuel cell trucks for mining operations get rolling

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The natural resources division of Adani Enterprises, on Saturday flagged off what it claimed to be India's first hydrogen fuel cell truck to promote cleaner transportation.

These hydrogen-powered trucks will gradually replace the diesel vehicles used in the company's logistics operations.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai flagged off the first truck in Raipur. It will be used to transport coal from the Gare Pelma III Block to the State's power plant.

Through collaboration, Adani is developing hydrogen fuel cell battery-operated trucks for cargo transport. Each truck, equipped with smart technology and three hydrogen tanks, can carry up to 40 tonnes of cargo over a 200-kilometre range.

"The launch of India's first hydrogen-powered truck in Chhattisgarh reflects the State's commitment to sustainability," said Mr. Sai.

"The initiative for hydrogen-powered trucks is a significant step towards Adani Group's commitment to decarbonisation and responsible mining. We are creating model mines with minimal environmental impact by incorporating autonomous dozer push technologies, solar power, digital initiatives, and tree transplanters to relocate trees," said Vinay Prakash, CEO, Adani Natural Resources and Director, Adani Enterprises.

Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles match diesel trucks in range and load capacity.

Each truck with smart technology and three hydrogen tanks, can carry up to 40 tonnes of cargo

"We aim to ensure affordable and reliable electricity for all while pioneering new standards in sustainable mining practices," he said. The project is a joint effort between Adani Natural Resources (ANR) and Adani New Industries Ltd. (ANIL), both part of Adani Enterprises.

ANR will source hydrogen cells from ANIL, which is also involved in green hydrogen, wind turbines, solar modules, and battery manufacturing.

Hydrogen, the most abundant element, produces no harmful emissions.

Hydrogen fuel cell vehicles match diesel trucks in range and load capacity but emit only water vapour and warm air, with minimal noise.

Travel firms boycott Turkiye, Azerbaijan

Aneesh Phadnis
MUMBAI

Travel firms have halted bookings to Azerbaijan and Turkiye for condemning India's retaliatory strikes against nine terrorist sites in Pakistan. Turkiye has also drawn ire over the supply of arms and drones to Pakistan to target India.

"Enough is Enough! Blood and Bookings won't flow together. We are suspending all flight and hotel bookings for Turkiye, China and Azerbaijan on ixigo," group CEO Aloke Bajpai said in an X post.

Cleartrip said it has suspended bookings to Azerbaijan and Turkiye "in solidarity with India's national interest and sovereignty."

Around 2.7 lakh Indian tourists visited Turkiye last year with footfall growing by over 20% on a year-on-year basis. Indian arrivals in Azerbaijan doubled to 2.4 lakh in 2024.

Non-stop flights, easy visa norms and budget-friendly options have made the destinations popular for meetings, incentives, conference and exhibitions (MICE) tours.

But now tourists are pausing their trips to the two countries. "Clients who were discussing Turkiye and Azerbaijan for their MICE tours are now holding back their plans. Some have even cancelled their Azerbaijan trips due this week," said Rajat Bagaria, Director of Srishti Tours & Travels. EaseMyTrip is advising its customers against travelling to Azerbaijan and Turkiye.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

'India must end over-dependence on the U.S.'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

India should strongly stay with the Asian side of the markets as this region has a great growth potential, rather than depending on the U.S. much, said Claude Smadja, former MD, World Economic Forum, who has over five decades of experience in geopolitics and global trade.

Claude Smadja

"Japan has always been looking for a greater relationship with India, similarly many other geographies in the region. India must explore this interest from its Asian neighbours instead of just depending much on the U.S. alone," Mr. Smadja told *The Hindu*.

He further said there was no notion of 'fairness' or 'morality' in the current U.S. administration. Therefore, what was required for India and other countries was setting counter measures, putting safeguards and increasing relationships with other countries outside the U.S., to mitigate any adverse impact.

Also, there was a 50% chance of the U.S. going into a recession by the end of calendar 2025 itself, if President Trump "continued what he is doing currently", he cautioned, indicating over relying on the U.S markets would not be a wise thing for India.

"It is difficult to predict, because nobody knows what Mr. Trump will do. He has already retracted from certain measures. But if he continues what he is doing now, I see a 50% chance of a recession in the U.S. by the end of this year itself," said Mr. Smadja, who is also the chairman of Smadja & Smadja, a strategic advisory firm based in New York.

India was neither treated badly or better than any other country by the Trump administration, Mr. Smadja said.

"In his [Trump's] mind, friends or 'allies' don't exist. For him, every single country or every single leader is an interlocutor, all in a transactional relationship, in which he would arm-twist the maximum to extract the maximum. That is the reality of his administration," he said.

The recent announcement of 100% tariffs on all movies produced outside of the U.S. was another example, he said.

'Simplify processes'

However, as a word of caution to India, he said to attract investors, India must simplify entry procedures and processes.

"Unfortunately, India's much-hyped single window clearance system is like a jungle. Nothing is easy under this system and that makes India still a complicated and a tough market to enter for global investors."

Amidst tariff war, Aequs to help in global supply chain efficiency

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The tariff war may have disrupted global supply chains but Aequs, a Northern Karnataka-based company, which is into manufacturing of high-precision aerospace and consumer durables exports, said it was helping in improving supply chain efficiency for global customers.

"By leveraging its manufacturing ecosystems, Aequs reliably delivers supply chain efficiencies to its global customer base," said Aravind Melligeri, executive chairman and CEO, Aequs.

Aequs's customers include Airbus, Boeing, Safran, Dassault, Collins Aerospace, Eaton, Honeywell, SAAB and GKN Aerospace. The company has India's first integrated treatment facility to be approved by Airbus and Boeing.

It is planning an initial public offer (IPO) of about ₹1,750 crore.

"Aequs offers a unique plug-and-play proposition, which provide manufacturers with the shortest plan-to-commercial gestation ever," said Mr. Melligeri.

It has already attracted investors such as Amicus Capital, Amansa Capital, Steadview Capital, Catamaran, Sparta Group and the investment office of Desh Deshpande.

The company's total operating income improved from ₹552 crore in FY20 to ₹969 crore in FY24 backed by healthy order book position in aerospace segment, according to Care Edge.

Advertisement No. 43/2025

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of

DIRECTOR (HUMAN RESOURCES)

in

ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED (AVNL)

Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on
04th June, 2025

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17.00 hours on
13th June, 2025.

For details login to website
https://pesb.gov.in

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Email id: investorhelpdesk.in@mmm.com,
Website: www.3m.com/in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Suit bearing Com. O.S. No. 628/2025 has been filed before the Court of CCH-87 LXXXVI Addl. City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru in the matter of "3M India Limited V. Ashok Kumar & Ors." inter alia seeking permanent mandatory injunction against the Defendant No. 1 (whose identity is not known to the Plaintiff, 3M India Limited). The Hon'ble Court has been pleased to pass an order dated 02.05.2025 granting interim injunction against the Defendant No.1 thereby restraining them from using the Plaintiff's registered trademark "3M" or any other mark deceptively similar thereto in any manner in any media including electronic media.

Please take note that certain entities (unknown to 3M and against whom the suit has been filed) have been deceiving the public by conducting unauthorized interviews for jobs at 3M and demanding monies for the hiring process. 3M has no concern with such entities and has never authorised anybody to undertake the hiring process for and on behalf of 3M.

Government of Rajasthan
Directorate of Integrated Child Development Services
2, Jalpath, Gandhi Nagar, Jaipur-302015
NIB No. F.3(2)(177)NNM/ICDS/HR Tender/2025/61427 Dated:- 02.05.2025
e-Tender Notice
No. 01/2025
e-bid is invited from Bidders for procurement of "Hiring man power services under Poshan Abhiyaan" upto 1.00 PM on dated 22.05.2025. Details may be seen in the bidding documents on our website www.wcd.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.raj.nic.in Bid form may be seen and downloaded from website eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, This bid shall be processed through e-procurement portal of Govt.of Rajasthan. Estimated value of the procurement is Rs. 1189.44 Lacs.
NIB No. ICD2526A0012 **(Omprakash Bunkar)**
UBN No. ICD2526SLOB00012 **Director ICDS and State Project Director, Poshan Abhiyaan**

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-भरतपुर
क्रमांक: ए.सी.ई./बी.टी.पी / निविदा/2025-26/डी-193 दिनांक 25.04.2025
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 06/2025-26
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से **बजट घोषणा 2024-25 के अन्तर्गत भरतपुर संभाग के अधीन जिला करौली एवं धौलपुर में 02 पुल निर्माण कार्य के लिए** उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" एवं "www.sppp.raj.nic.in" पर देखा जा सकता हैं। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट "www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in" पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक हैं।
NIB No.: PWD2526A0294
UBN No:- PWD2526WLOB00885, UBN No:- PWD2526WLOB00886
DIPR/C/5898/2025 **अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सानिवि संभाग भरतपुर**

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता (मानसरोवर)
नगर निगम, ग्रेटर जयपुर
सेक्टर-9, गोखले मार्ग, शिप्रा पथ रोड़, मानसरोवर, जयपुर
क्रमांक :- ज.स.अ./2025/58 दिनांक :- 09/05/2025
ई-निविदा सूचना सं. अधि0 अभि0 (मानसरोवर) - 23/2025-26
केन्द्र एवं राज्य सरकार के सभी विभागों में पंजीकृत संवेदको एवं नगर निगम जयपुर के पंजीकृत निविदादाताओं से बिड अधि0 अभि0 (मानसरोवर जोन) से सम्बन्धित विकास कार्य की निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, टेण्डर बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की तारीख, टेण्डर शर्त आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण नगर निगम जयपुर की वेबसाईट **www.jaipurmc.org.com** व **http;//sppp.raj.nic.in & eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है। जिसका sppp पोर्टल यू.बी.ई.एन. नं. JMC2526WLOB00531 है। उक्त निविदा को **http://sppp.raj.nic.in** पर दिनांक 02.05.2025 को अपलोड करवा दिया जायेगा।
राज.संवाद/सी/25/2035 **अधिशाषी अभियन्ता मानसरोवर जोन, नगर निगम जयपुर ग्रेटर**

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030
Admission Notification for Distance Mode Courses
1. Post Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Rural Development (PGDSRD) 17th Batch (2025-26)
2. Post Graduate Diploma in Tribal Development Management (PGDTDM) 14th Batch (2025-26)
3. Post Graduate Diploma in Geo-Spatial Technology Applications in Rural Development (PGDGARD) 10th Batch (2025-26)
4. Diploma Programme on Panchayati Raj Governance & Rural Development (DP- PRGRD) 7th Batch (2025-26)

Applications from aspiring candidates are invited for admission into above Distance Mode Courses commencing in the Month of **August 2025.**
The minimum educational qualification for admission is Graduation in any discipline from UGC recognized Universities. Please visit our Website **www.nirdpr.org.in/dec.aspx** for further details and to apply online. The last date for receipt of filled-in online applications is **31.07.2025**. For queries, please contact Mobile No.:**7416860345,** Email ID: **dec.nird@gov.in**
Advt. No. 23/2025
Comp. No.14868
Sd/-
Registrar & Director (Admin)
NIRDPR

MADURAI CORPORATION
Notice for inviting tender
Madurai Corporation inviting bids from Eligible Consultant for the below mentioned works by the Commissioner

Name of Work	Bid Submission Date	Bid Opening Date
E1/Est.No.001875 / 2025 (2nd Call) REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) TO IMPLEMENT THE UGSS IN LEFTOUT/ADDED AREAS IN MADURAI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION UNDER KFW ASSISTED SMIF – TN - III (PACKAGE –I&II) **(Tender Put Value - 471.89 Lakhs)**	From 13.05.2025 To 27.05.2025 3.00 PM	27.05.2025 4.00Pm
Pre Bid Meeting Held on 20.05.2025, 11.00 AM		

Other Details can be found at Site. **http://www.tntenders.gov.in** website
Contact No: 0452-2540333
DIPR/2107/TENDER/2025
Commissioner
Madurai Corporation

In remains of 2004 flare, scientists find second natural source of gold

The Hindu Bureau

In a new paper published in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*, a team of researchers led by Anirudh Patel of Columbia University has reported that the universe may have another way to produce the element gold – which scientists have so far believed has been produced only in the cataclysmic collisions of ultra-dense worlds called neutron stars.

Knowing where different elements in the universe come from helps scientists understand how the universe's chemical makeup has changed through time. The early universe only had hydrogen, helium, and trace amounts of lithium. All other elements were created later in stars, cosmic explosions, and laboratory experiments. Mapping the sources tells us how galaxies, stars, and planets took shape over time. Understanding the sources can also reveal how often an element was produced and how the presence of an element influenced the source's own evolution.

The team reported the first direct observational evidence of a process called r-process nucleosynthesis in a powerful flare emitted by a body called a magnetar in 2004.

Almost a day after the flare, the magnetar emitted strong gamma rays, which NASA's Compton Gamma Ray Observatory recorded. Per the team, the delayed emission was inconsistent with standard flare afterglows and contained evidence of radioactive decay from r-process nuclei.

Magnetars are neutron stars with extremely strong magnetic fields. Sometimes they release large bursts of energy in flares.

The energy levels in the delayed emission and how they changed in time were found to be consistent with the decay signatures of radioactive isotopes rich in neutrons produced in the rapid neutron-capture process, or r-process. The team used models to conclude that 1.9 septillion kg of r-process material ejected at close to the speed of light could explain the delayed emission.

This means some magnetar flares can eject neutron-rich matter into space, where it goes through r-process nucleosynthesis to create heavy elements like gold. So far, physicists have believed that gold has predominantly been produced in mergers of neutron stars, which scientists study using space telescopes and gravitational wave detectors. Patel *et al.* also suggested that the universe may have had gold atoms sooner since the cosmos could have had magnetars before colliding neutron stars.

The authors also considered some alternative explanations, including noise in the measuring instruments and instruments misreading the flares' afterglow, and ruled them out by comparisons with other data and detailed simulations.

Curious case of yeast modified to develop brain defects

Two studies have found that disease variants damaging RNA exosomes in humans have similar effects in yeast, suggesting that future drugs that alleviate this damage in yeast could also be effective in humans

D.P. Kasbekar

Researchers at Emory University and the University of Texas Health Science Centre, both in the U.S., have found that a class of mutations that leads to serious developmental disabilities in human babies has similar effects in budding yeast, a simpler organism. The findings represent a major step in the study of these conditions because they throw light on how they ought to be studied.

Since yeast is easy to study in labs, they also raise the possibility of quickly testing drugs to treat these conditions in yeast first.

An unlikely relationship

Two new studies have revealed a convenient way to explore a serious medical condition

Rainis Venta (CC BY-SA)

Yeast colonies being grown on an agar plate

1 Pontocerebellar hypoplasia type 1 (PCH1) is a serious medical condition that presents at birth

2 PCH1 patients show diffuse weakness, problems with movement, and intellectual disability; most don't survive beyond early childhood

3 The RNA exosome, discovered in 1997, is responsible for processing, monitoring, and turning over cellular RNA

4 A major question is which RNA exosome disruptions lead to which forms of brain maldevelopment

5 One new study showed that different RNA exosomopathy mutations have unique molecular signatures that explain the different clinical outcomes

6 Another study showed that a humanised yeast model can be used to test which human RNA exosome mutations are bad

RNA exosomopathies

Pontocerebellar hypoplasia type 1 (PCH1) is a serious medical condition that presents at birth. Babies born with it have impaired development of two brain regions, the pons and the cerebellum. PCH1 patients show delayed development, diffuse weakness, problems with movement, and intellectual disability. Most don't survive beyond infancy or early childhood.

In 2012, four siblings with PCH1 type B were all found to carry mutations in a gene called *EXOSC3*, which encodes one protein of a multiprotein complex in cells called the RNA exosome. This provided the first example of a human disease caused by mutations affecting the RNA exosome.

The RNA exosome

The new findings were reported in two papers this April, one in the journal *RNA* and the other in *G3 Genes Genomes Genetics*.

The RNA molecule is the working copy of the genes in our cells. The master copy is the DNA. A cell uses the DNA sequence corresponding to a gene as a template to make the RNA for that gene, then uses the RNA to make proteins. Many newly made RNAs are processed by the RNA exosome before they can play their cellular roles.

The RNA exosome was discovered in 1997 in budding yeast (*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*). Its primary job is to process, monitor, and turnover cellular RNA.

Subsequent studies of patients with other neurological and developmental disorders uncovered mutations in many other genes related to RNA exosome proteins. These conditions are together called RNA exosomopathies. Most RNA exosomopathies lead to brain maldevelopment. A major question in the study of these proteins is which exosomopathies lead to which form of maldevelopment.

Most of the RNA in a cell is rRNA (ribosomal RNA). Other types are mRNA (messenger RNA), tRNA (transfer RNA), and various non-coding RNA (ncRNA).

After the mRNA is transcribed from a gene, it is attached to the ribosome, the cell's protein-making factory. Its ingredients supplier is the tRNA.

A critical function of the RNA exosome is to produce the mature rRNAs required to build functional ribosomes. The RNA exosome also degrades mRNA marked for removal.

Unique signatures

The *RNA* paper investigated how different disease-causing mutations in the RNA exosome have diverse cellular effects. To model the diseases, the researchers introduced mutations linked to human diseases into the corresponding four genes in yeast.

The researchers found that the mutations particularly affected the ncRNA, the mRNA involved in metabolism, and ribosomal protein genes. They were also able to confirm defects in the process cells use to make ribosomes.

Importantly, this study showed that different RNA exosomopathy mutations have unique molecular signatures that affect RNA surveillance, ribosome production, and protein synthesis. This distinctiveness explained the different clinical outcomes in patients with different RNA exosome mutations, and underscored the value of functional modelling to understand the conditions.

A humanised model

In the *G3* paper, researchers reported creating a 'humanised yeast model' by replacing particular pieces of the yeast RNA exosome with their human or mouse counterparts. Of the nine core pieces, six could be replaced in this way; of these six, three still allowed the yeast to grow almost normally.

Then they mutated those genes in the model that were known to cause brain maldevelopment in humans. The model helped them identify the precise genetic variants that caused functional defects, including both previously known mutations and new ones.

In each case, the team was also able to show that the mutations directly disrupted the RNA exosome, rather than some intermediary process doing so.

This study established that the humanised yeast model is a convenient platform to test which human RNA exosome mutations are bad and which aren't.

In sum, the studies showed that disease variants that damage RNA exosomes in humans also do so in yeast. It's possible drugs found in the future to ameliorate damage in yeast may prove to be useful in humans as well.

D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist

Scientists create first 'pangenome' of Asian rice

Jacob Koshy

Scientists have assembled a first of its kind 'pangenome', a kind of reference genome, by stitching together key parts of genomes from 144 varieties of wild and cultivated varieties of rice from Asia. Much like the Human Genome Project in 2003 mapped genomes from a range of individuals, expressing the genetic diversity of the human species, the rice pangenome allows researchers to develop new rice cultivars and introduce new traits for disease-tolerance as well as resilience against climate shocks.

Rice is a staple for nearly two-thirds of the globe. It is the primary crop grown in India over the monsoon months of June-September. In 2024-25, India produced a record 220 million tonnes of rice over 51,000 ha with an average yield of 4.2 tonnes/ha. Several studies over the years have warned that rising temperatures due to climate change would not only affect yields but also increase arsenic uptake among several rice varieties. India's average temperature has increased by 0.7° C since 1901. 2024 was the hottest year on record, with the average minimum temperature 0.9° C above the long-term average.

Earlier this month, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) announced the development of two varieties of genome-edited rice, Samba Mahsuri and MTU 1010, that reportedly promise higher yields and better drought resistance. These, however, are yet to be released into farmer fields.

To develop the pangenome, the scientists – nearly all associated with the Chinese Academy of Sciences – report undertaking a "deep analysis of complex gene flows" both within cultivars (domesticated) and between cultivars and wild rice, highlighting the evolutionary and domestication pathways of various rice types. This study reinforced support for the hypothesis that all Asian cultivated rice had an evolutionary origin from a wild variety called Or-IIIa, the ancestor of *japonica*.

Asian cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) is one of the most important food crops in the world. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Asian cultivated rice (*Oryza sativa* L.) was domesticated from its wild progenitor *O. rufipogon*, and is one of the most important food crops in the world. Or-IIIa is a variant of *O. rufipogon*.

While reference genomes of a species generally confine themselves to identifying the characteristic genes that make up a species, a 'pangenome' has the common genes as well as maps out the unique genes found in the individual rice varieties. It presents a more complete understanding of the genetic variation present in rice.

Primarily using 'PacBio high-fidelity'(HiFi) sequencing technology and computational methods, their analysis revealed 3.87 billion base pairs of novel genetic sequences absent from the single acknowledged reference genome, *O sativa ssp japonica*.

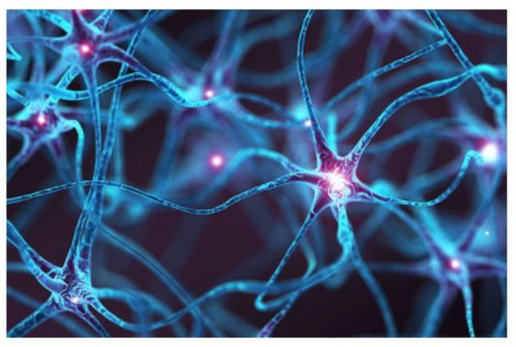
They identified 69,531 genes collectively spanning the pangenome, with 28,907 core genes and 13,728 wild-rice-specific genes.

Population genetics studies have earlier shown that ancient *japonica* rice was first domesticated from the *O. rufipogon* group IIIa (Or-IIIa) population in China, and that *indica* rice was subsequently domesticated when ancient *japonica* spread southward and westward in Asia and crossed with the local *O. rufipogon* group I (Or-I) population.

Another key finding of the study was that of the 69,531 genes identified, about 20% were specific to wild rice. These genetic resources can improve understanding of rice environmental adaptation, phenotypic plasticity and regeneration potential. "By bridging the gap between wild and cultivated rice genetics, our study opens new avenues and provides useful wild rice resources for developing superior and more productive rice varieties," the authors note.

"These improved varieties could incorporate valuable traits from wild rice species, potentially enhancing their resilience to rapid environmental changes."

SNAPSHOTS



New method to map brain cells using light microscopes

Scientists have developed a way to map how brain cells are connected using light microscopes in a technique called LICONN. It allows researchers to see structures in the brain that are smaller than what normal light microscopes can detect. They do this by soaking brain tissue in a special gel that expands it by about 16 times its original size, then use fluorescent stains to highlight different proteins and advanced computer programs, including AI, to identify and trace the shapes of neurons.

Some reef fish rotate jaws outward to bite better

Some reef fish have evolved a peculiar way to move their jaws sideways to help them eat more effectively. While most fish use their jaws in an up-and-down motion to bite, Moorish idols and surgeonfish have been found to also move their jaws side-to-side to bite and to remove algae from surfaces like rocks or coral. A small change in jaw movement gave these fish a big advantage in their environment. The special jaw motion could also be why surgeonfish have some of the highest bite rates of any reef fish.

Sensor in face mask could detect kidney disease

Scientists have developed a way to detect chronic kidney disease (CKD) by analysing a person's breath using a sensor inside a regular FFP2 face mask in two minutes. The idea is that people with CKD release certain gases when they exhale. The scientists created a sensor made of porphyrins and polymers that change when they come in contact with these gases. A circuit inside the mask reads the data and uses AI, signal analysis to see whether someone likely has CKD.

Question Corner

Origins of music

How did human music originate?

The origins of human music are obscure because of the many contexts in which it could have arisen and for a variety of purposes. Archaeologists have found musical instruments among the remains of Egyptian and Indus civilisation sites and in similar settlements since the dawn of prehistory.

Some theories also suggest human music co-originated with human language, although the evidence is iffy.

This said, scientists have been exploring music among humans' closest living relatives, the chimpanzees. Researchers reported on May 9 that Western and Eastern chimpanzees both have spontaneous drumming behaviour. They also said some individuals could produce drumming sequences with very stable inter-beat intervals, closely matching rhythms found in human music.

Per the researchers, the drumming behaviour they have observed suggests that precursors to human musical rhythm didn't emerge 'from scratch' but rather evolved from traits present in the common ancestor of humans and chimpanzees both.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Is safe harbour important for social media?

What is intermediary liability? How does safe harbour protect social media platforms from legal action?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

In written submissions to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communication and Information Technology, the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said that it is reconsidering the concept of safe harbour for social media platforms, to combat the issue of "fake news" online.

What is safe harbour?

Safe harbour is a legal concept that protects individual websites that allow third party users to share content from legal liability for any unlawful posts. The concept was put in place in the early years of the internet as a key safeguard to encourage innovation online and prevent website owners from being unfairly hounded for content they had no hand in publishing. The concept of a middleman being responsible for third party content is known as intermediary liability, and safe harbour protects sites, by default, from any criminal action for content hosted by them. In the U.S., safe harbour is enshrined in Section 230 of the Communications Act of 1934, inserted into the decades-old law in 1996. In India, Section 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, grants intermediaries similar protections.

The protections are not without conditions. In India, if an intermediary receives "actual knowledge" of illegal content on their website, they lose liability protections under Section 79 if they don't work to take the content down within a certain time period. The Supreme Court has read down "actual knowledge" to mean a court order or government notification.

> The Union government has pitched amending safe harbour as a way to get platforms to be more proactive in governing their sites

Without safe harbour protections, online intermediaries could face tremendous consequences for illegal content. For instance, in 2004, the then head of the website eBay in India was arrested because of a user listing of a disk containing child sex abuse material for sale.

How are intermediary liability protections regulated in India?

While safe harbour does have the conditions described above, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 has put in place additional conditions for platforms to retain protection from intermediary liability. Social media firms need to have a nodal officer, a grievance officer resident in India, and need to periodically submit reports of complaints they receive on content, and action taken against them for this. Different parts of the IT Rules have been challenged in courts in the last few years.

For example, in 2023, the Union government notified the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2023, which contained provisions that would strip safe harbour from sites for content that has been notified as "fake news" by the Press Information Bureau's fact check unit. That amendment was immediately challenged in the Bombay High Court, among others by the comedian Kunal Kamra. Petitioners accused the government of exceeding its authority by designating a fact check unit that could be an arbiter of truth, and putting pressure on social media companies to take content down without following the longer process of sending a notice to users whose content is being removed. The Bombay High Court sided with Mr. Kamra, and the case is being appealed by the government.

Why is the government considering amending the safe harbour clause?

The government has accused foreign social media platforms of flouting Indian laws and acting too slowly on takedown notices. On multiple occasions before Elon Musk acquired Twitter, now known as X, the platform had public confrontations with the Union government regarding orders to hide users' content. X under Mr. Musk has continued to fight the government's right to issue blocking and takedown orders without notice to users at the Karnataka High Court. The Union government has pitched amending safe harbour as a way to get platforms to be more proactive in governing their sites, not just for what they deem to be misinformation, but for AI-generated deepfakes, cyberfrauds and so on. In the U.S., both former President Joe Biden and current President Donald Trump have taken aim at Section 230 for different reasons – Mr. Biden's White House sought to weaken safe harbour protections as a way to make platforms more liable for extremist content, and Mr. Trump for the alleged silencing of conservative voices.

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has indicated that it would draft a Digital India Act (DIA) that would incorporate these changes, but the outlines of how safe harbour would change under this proposed law have not yet been revealed. Moreover, no DIA draft law has been released yet.

What will be impact of India-U.K. trade deal?

How long was the free trade agreement in the works? When is it expected to be signed and implemented? Which are the sectors likely to benefit apart from textile and automobiles? What are the challenges for agriculture and medium and small enterprises?

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

After nearly three-and-half years, India and the U.K. finally gave their nod to a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) this week. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the pact would set a new benchmark for "equitable and ambitious trade between the two large economies". Though the fineprint has not yet been made public, domestic industry has welcomed the announcement, amid concerns about the potential impact on agriculture and medium and small enterprises (MSMEs). The deal is likely to be signed after three months, and will take over a year to implement.

Why is the deal significant for both nations?

The U.K. is India's 16th largest trading partner and India is the U.K.'s 11th largest partner. Their bilateral trade is about $60 billion with India enjoying a positive trade balance, which is expected to double by 2030, according to the Indian government's estimates. The new trade deal, as assessed by the British government, would increase the bilateral trade by another $34 billion. The agreement comes in the backdrop of global trade reeling under uncertainty triggered by U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff regime.

What are the expectations from the FTA?

While the details are yet to be published, the British government said it would benefit from India agreeing to slash tariffs on 90% of the product categories for export, with 85% of them becoming "tariff-free" within a decade. Further, basing its assessment on 2022 prices, it estimated that $534 million worth in tariffs would be saved when the deal is enforced. On the other hand, New Delhi expects to benefit from tariffs being eliminated on 99% of its export product categories. It expects an increase in export opportunities for sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, auto parts, engineering as well as gems and jewellery, among others. The British government mentioned about curtailed tariffs on automotives, whisky and gin, sectors which had been hit by Mr. Trump's tariffs. Alcoholic beverages from the U.K. will now have a 75% tariff rate, from the present 150%. This would be further reduced to 40% within a decade. Tariffs on automobile exports too stand reduced from over 100% to 10% albeit with a certain quota based on price for conventional combustion engine vehicles and capacity for electric vehicles.

> Indian workers temporarily in the U.K. will not have to pay social security contributions for three years

With respect to services, India has secured an exemption for Indian workers temporarily in the U.K. and for their employers from paying social security contributions for three years under the Double Contribution Convention. Immigration was among the major points of contention during negotiations with the erstwhile Conservative government. The FTA will also seek that visa processes remain "transparent" and no "unnecessary" obstacles are created in professional travel.

Trade talks: Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the G20 summit in Brazil in November 2024. REUTERS

How has domestic industry responded?

Indian industry is upbeat about the announcement and expects a spike in exports. Textiles are among the major items of export to the U.K. Mithileshwar Thakur, secretary-general at the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC), told *The Hindu* that exports are expected to "grow exponentially". He said India would now enjoy duty-free access to U.K. markets like their main competitors Bangladesh and Vietnam. On competition, he clarified that there was "hardly any" import from the U.K. in this sector.

The Indian automobile industry feels it will benefit from the deal. C.S. Vigneshwar, president, Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA), contended that the FTA would ensure the the U.K. has better access to India's premium (vehicle) segment markets, and Indian makers would serve the U.K.'s mass segment markets. "We do not expect the U.K.'s mid-segment cars to be competitive to Indian vehicles because the cost of production and labour is lower in India," he stated.

Kirit Bhansali, chairman, Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), in a social media post projected a rise of $2.5 billion of exports within the next two years in the sector, thus, culminating in bilateral trade doubling to $7 billion.

Are there concerns?

There are concerns in primarily two sectors, agriculture and MSMEs. Vijoo Krishnan, general secretary of the All-India Kisan Sabha, points to a previous FTA with Sri Lanka having led to a price crash in similar products produced by Indian farmers like spices and tea, among others. He also cites the case of the lasting impact of the ASEAN FTA's impact on rubber which stood at ₹230/kg in 2011 compared to ₹170/kg in 2025. He observes that FTAs have paved "unequal" paradigms for Indian farmers and MSMEs. "The Indian farmers hold small lands, a good number of them being less than five acres. This is not the case with advanced countries," he stated. Mr. Krishnan further points to the World Trade Organization's contention about minimum selling price in India. "Given the number of farmers we have, the cumulative amount of subsidies is huge though per-capita pales in comparison to European farmers. Also, WTO considers the base price from the late 1980s," he states, elaborating, "there has been much escalation of costs since then and farmers must be given commensurate increase in prices, incentives and subsidies". Ajay Srivastava, founder of the India-based Global Trade Research Initiative, said permitting foreign firms to compete on an equal footing in India could weaken the policy tools India needs to build local capacity in vital sectors such as defence, renewables, health systems and infrastructure. "It also threatens the ecosystem of MSMEs that rely on protected access to government contracts to stay viable," he observes.

On public procurement, the U.K. held that the FTA would allow their companies to bid for government procurement contracts on "better terms and with greater access to the relevant information to support their bids". According to Dinesh Abrol, adjunct faculty at the Transdisciplinary Research Cluster on Sustainable Studies at JNU in Delhi, this could lead to a growing import dependency.

The other unaddressed aspect in the FTA concerns the U.K.'s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) which would impose a "carbon price" on goods bearing greenhouses being imported into the country. This would be of particular consequence to Indian aluminium and steel exports. Although unrelated to the U.K., Mr. Goyal warned that India too would retaliate with likewise taxes should Europe go ahead with the carbon pricing mechanism, suggesting a cause for potential uncertainty.

What's the self-defence clause in global law?

Under international law, how will India's military response against terror camps in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir be perceived? Which country has been a vocal proponent of the 'unwilling or unable' doctrine? What happens if there is a breach of the ceasefire agreement?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

On May 10, India and Pakistan agreed to halt "all firing and military action" following days of escalating tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours. The announcement came after the Indian armed forces conducted 24 precision strikes on May 7, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, in response to the Pahalgam massacre that left 26 dead. While India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri described the strikes as "measured and non-escalatory," Pakistan denounced them as a "blatant act of war" and alleged civilian casualties.

What does the right to self-defence entail?

Article 51 of the United Nations (UN) Charter carves out an exception to the prohibition on the use of force outlined in Article 2(4), which bars member states from threatening or using force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state. It allows the use of force solely in the exercise of self-defence following an armed attack. Although the Foreign Secretary's statement did not explicitly invoke Article 51, his description of the missile strikes as a "response" to the Pahalgam terror attack appears to be reliant on this principle.

> If the ceasefire agreement fails to hold, the UNSC could adopt a resolution calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities

Call to peace: Celebrations after ceasefire announcement between India and Pakistan in Srinagar on Saturday. IMRAN NISSAR

However, this right is not unfettered. Article 51 imposes a procedural obligation on member states to "immediately" report to the UN Security Council (UNSC) any military measures taken in self-defence. The UNSC then assumes the authority to undertake action to "maintain or restore international peace and security".

Can it be exercised against non-state actors?

The UN Charter governs only the conduct of states and, by extension, state-sponsored uses of force. Following the 9/11 attacks, the growing role of non-state actors (NSAs) in armed conflict prompted some states, most notably the U.S., to argue that the right of self-defence under Article 51 extends to military action against NSAs like al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (IS). However, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has adopted a more restrictive interpretation. In cases such as *Nicaragua verus U.S.* (1986) and the *Democratic Republic of the Congo versus Uganda* (2005), it has been held that an armed attack under Article 51 includes acts by NSAs only if they are carried out "by or on behalf of a state." Accordingly, attribution to a state remains a necessary condition for invoking the right of self-defence under international law. "It is evident from the Foreign Secretary's statement that India has not contextualised the missile strikes within the international law framework. However, by asserting that 'Pakistan-trained terrorists' were responsible for the Pahalgam attack and describing it as part of 'Pakistan's long-standing record of cross-border terrorism,' India seems to have directly attributed the attack to Pakistan," Prabhash Ranjan, professor at Jindal Global Law School, told *The Hindu*.

What is the 'unwilling or unable' doctrine?

An emerging doctrine in international law permits the use of force in self-defence against NSAs operating from the territory of another state, when that state is "unwilling or unable" to neutralise the threat. The U.S. has been a leading proponent of this doctrine, invoking it to justify the 2011 military operation that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan and the 2014 airstrikes against the IS in Syria. However, states such as China, Mexico, and Russia have condemned such military operations for undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the host state.

Dr. Ranjan noted that the Foreign Secretary's remarks that Pakistan had taken "no demonstrable step" to act against terrorist infrastructure in the fortnight following the Pahalgam attack and that the country has long served as a "haven for terrorists" indicate a reliance on the "unwilling or unable" doctrine. "This doctrine does not require state attribution for attacks by NSAs, thereby lowering the threshold for invoking self-defence," he explained. "However, this principle is contested and lacks the consistent state practice and *opinio juris* necessary to crystallise into a rule of customary international law."

Is proportionality essential?

Military operations under Article 51 must comply with the principles of necessity and proportionality. It is generally accepted that a host state's unwillingness or inability to neutralise NSAs may fulfil the necessity requirement. However, the Leiden Policy Recommendations on Counter-Terrorism and International Law (2010) emphasise that military operations against the host state's armed forces or facilities are permissible only in "exceptional circumstances", such as when the state actively supports the terrorists. On proportionality, there are two competing views: a narrow interpretation limits force to what is necessary to stop an ongoing attack, while a broader view permits action to repel and prevent future attacks reasonably anticipated under the circumstances. "Since the military strikes on May 7, were directed solely at terrorist infrastructure, without targeting Pakistani military assets or civilian settlements, they would satisfy the requirements of necessity and proportionality", Dr. Ranjan said.

What lies ahead?

If the ceasefire agreement between India and Pakistan fails to hold, the UNSC could adopt a resolution calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities. It may also vote on a subsequent resolution to address any further violations, including the imposition of sanctions or the deployment of its own peacekeeping or military forces. However, the successful passage of such resolutions is likely to be shaped by the geopolitical interests of the Council's permanent members, each of whom holds veto power.

The terror trio of Pakistan

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, LeT and JeM

The terrorist organisations, driven by Islamist ideology and anti-India sentiment, have close ties with Pakistan's military-security establishment, and have carried out multiple attacks inside India over the years

Suchitra Karthikeyan

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

(from left): Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin; Jaish-e-Mohammed's Masood Azhar and Lashkar-e-Taiba's Hafiz Saeed.

Flanked by top Pakistani military officials, Abdur Rauf, a local cleric and a U.S. designated terrorist, led prayers for those killed on May 7 by Indian attacks, inside Lashkar-e-Taiba's (LeT) headquarters in Muridke, Punjab. Wrapped in Pakistan's 'Star and Cresent' flag, the slain were awarded 'state honours', and wreaths were reportedly laid by Pakistani Army Chief Gen. Asim Munir and Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz on their remains.

Indian security officials confirmed on May 10 that five high-profile terrorists were killed during 'Operation Sindoor'. India said it hit nine terror camps of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), LeT and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan. Hafiz Muhammad Jameel and Mohammad Yusuf Azhar, two brothers-in-law of JeM founder Maulana Masood Azhar, LeT commanders Mudassar Khadian, Khalid and JeM's Mohammad Hassan Khan were among the dead.

For more than three decades, these three outfits have been responsible for attacks across India, including the 2001 Parliament attack, the 2008 Mumbai attack and the recent (April 22) Pahalgam massacre. Here's a look at each of these outfits, which are backed by Pakistan's security establishment.

Hizb-ul-Mujahideen

Founded in 1989, Hizb-ul-Mujahideen started operating in PoK's Muzaffarabad with the aim of integrating Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan. As a militant wing of Pakistan's Islamist organisation Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Hizb was set up at the behest of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), the Pakistani spy agency. The group has a cadre strength of over 1,500 and its chief is Mohammed Yusuf Shah, also known as Syed Salahuddin. It operates in five divisions, targetting Srinagar, Kupwara, Bandipora, Baramulla, Anantnag, Pulwama, Doda, Rajouri, Poonch and Udhampur. While its headquarters is in PoK, Hizbul has units in both Islamabad and Rawalpindi to communicate with the military and the government.

Born at the peak of insurgency in Kashmir, Hizb saw an internal tussle over ideology, leading to a split with Salahuddin heading one faction and Hilal Ahmed Mir the other. In 1993, India's counter-terrorist attacks peaked, wiping out several top leaders, including Mir. Through the years, Hizb has clashed with Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) – another ISI-funded group, which advocates for Kashmir's independence.

In July 2000, Salahuddin made a conditional offer of ceasefire to India, in a press conference in Islamabad, leading to a meeting between the group's chief commander Abdul Majeed Dar and a high-level Indian official team at Srinagar. However, facing pressure from other terrorist outfits in Pakistan, Salahuddin retracted his offer within days after the meeting. Dar, who played a significant role in the indoctrination, recruitment, launching and training of cadres, was killed in 2003 by unknown gunmen in Sopore. The attack was reportedly carried out by a splinter group of Hizb, after he had fallen out of favour with Salahuddin.

Through the years, the group has been responsible for numerous attacks on elected leaders in J&K, grenade attacks on J&K police stations, bomb attacks on military personnel and the Delhi High Court blast of 2011. Top leaders such as Ahsan Dar, Ashraf Dar, Maqbool Alla, Burhan Wani, Riyaz Naikoo, Sabzar Bhat have been killed by Indian security forces. It was designated a terrorist organisation by the U.S. in 2017.

Lashkar-e-Taiba

Called the 'Army of the pure', Lashkar-e-Taiba was founded in Afghanistan's Kunwar province in 1990. Its active presence was first established in 1993 when its cadres infiltrated across the LoC. Funded by Pakistan's Islamist organisation Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad, LeT challenges India's sovereignty over Kashmir, and believes in uniting all Muslim majority regions in Asia and impose Islamic rule in India. Its chief, Hafiz Muhammad Saeed, set up its headquarters in Muridke and is currently imprisoned in Pakistan's Central Lahore Jail for 'terror financing'. Apart from Muridke, LeT has bases in Muzaffarabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Multan, Quetta, Gujranwala, Sialkot, and operates several Islamic institutions, schools, clinics and seminaries across Pakistan.

With India, the U.S. and Israel as its prime targets, LeT has recruited cadres from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sudan, Bahrain, Turkiye and Libya. It has an active presence is in Jammu and Kashmir, Chechnya and other parts of Central Asia, with over 700 cadres in J&K itself. Networking with several other terror outfits like al-Qaeda, LeT has been responsible for some of India's deadliest terror attacks such as the Mumbai train attacks (2006), 26/11 attack (2008), Akshardham temple attack (2002), serial blasts in Varanasi, Bengaluru, New Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Mumbai and several suicide attacks on security bases. Post-1999, LeT implemented the 'Fiyadeen' attacks in which small units stormed security forces' bases. There were instances of LeT members, disguised as security personnel, rounding up non-Muslim civilians in J&K and killing them.

Under pressure from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Pakistan government 'arrested' Hafiz Saeed in 2019, and he was sentenced to 11 years of imprisonment for 'terror financing'. LeT has been outlawed in India and designated as a terrorist organisation by the U.S. In 2002, under international pressure, the Pakistani government banned the group.

One of its bases, Markaz Taiba in Muridke, which trained terrorists like Ajmal Kasab and David Headley for the 2008 Mumbai attacks, was hit by India during Operation Sindoor.

Jaish-e-Mohammad

The hijacking of Indian Airlines flight IC 814 in Kandahar by Harakat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM) in 1999 facilitated the release of HuM's secretary general Maulana Masood Azhar. Upon his release, he launched Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) at a stadium in Bahawalpur in March 2000, after being designated as a global terrorist by the U.S.

JeM's objectives include withdrawal of Indian security forces from J&K and the "liberation" of Kashmir. It also wishes to take control of Amritsar, New Delhi and Babri Masjid in Ayodhya – where now a Ram temple stands. With funding from the ISI and foreign countries, JeM has been responsible for terror attacks in India such as the 2001 Parliament attack, 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, and the 2019 Pulwama attack.

Active across J&K districts, JeM chief Masood Azhar was arrested after the 2001 Parliament attack but released on orders of a three-member Review Board of Lahore High Court in 2002. Since then, Pakistan has maintained it does not know his whereabouts, but Azhar has reportedly remained in Bahawalpur, as indicated by a speech given in December 2024.

On May 7, Indian strikes destroyed Markaz Subhanallah, which served as JeM's headquarters in Bahawalpur, and killed several of Azhar's family members, who are part of JeM.

THE GIST

- As a militant wing of Pakistan's Islamist organisation Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), Hizb-ul-Mujahideen was established in 1989, at the behest of the ISI, with the aim of integrating Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan
- Called the 'army of the pure', Lashkar-e-Taiba was founded in Afghanistan's Kunwar province in 1990, and is responsible for some of the deadliest terror attacks in India such as the Mumbai train attacks (2006) and 26/11 attack (2008)
- Jaish-e-Mohammed, founded by Maulana Masood Azhar, has been responsible for terror attacks in India such as the 2001 Parliament attack, 2016 Pathankot airbase attack, and the 2019 Pulwama attack

The bridge-building pontiff

Pope Leo XIV

The first U.S. pope now faces the monumental task of transcending his national origin to unify a divided Church and navigate a complex world

Franciszek Snarski

Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost's election as the 267th pontiff on May 8 made him the first U.S. citizen to hold this office, a development immediately highlighting his nationality as a central factor in his papacy. This historic elevation occurred after a swift conclave, the assembly of cardinals for electing a pope, reportedly concluding in just four ballots and placing the Chicago-born Prevost, 69, at the head of 1.4 billion Catholics.

Entering the conclave, Cardinal Prevost was widely regarded as a "dark horse" candidate, with public speculation favouring other *papabili* – cardinals considered potential candidates for the papacy – underscoring the old Roman saying, "he who enters the conclave a pope, leaves it as a cardinal." His subsequent election highlighted the unpredictable nature of papal elections.

Appearing on the central loggia of St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Leo XIV, distinguished by wearing the traditional red *mozzetta* (a short cape) and stole (a liturgical vestment) that Pope Francis had set aside, addressed the assembled crowd for the first time. He initiated his message with the Italian greeting "*Pace a voi*" (Peace be with you), subsequently switching to Spanish, and extended a specific greeting to his "beloved diocese of Chiclayo in Peru", while his address emphasised themes of peace, dialogue, and a missionary church dedicated to those who suffer.

'Saint of the north'

The ascent of an American to the papacy inevitably draws comparisons to Pope John Paul II, whose pontificate is widely credited with inspiring Poland's Solidarity movement and significantly contributing to the challenge against communist doctrine of state atheism in Eastern Europe. U.S. far-right figures like Laura Loomer labelled Pope Leo as "worse than Francis", "anti-Trump", and a "Marxist".

In 2015, while serving as Bishop of Chiclayo, Robert Prevost acquired Peruvian citizenship, a status following nearly two decades of missionary work that earned him the local affection of "saint of the north." Peruvian President Dina Boluarte subsequently lauded his election as a "historic moment for Peru", underscoring the dual U.S.-Peruvian identity that now positions Pope Leo directly on the North-South ecclesiastical and economic fault line.

Pope Francis appointed Robert Prevost as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops – head of the Vatican department responsible for advising on bishop appointments – in January 2023, an instrumental role in continuing Francis's pastoral vision. However, as an Augustinian Order leader in 2012, Prevost had critiqued the "homosexual lifestyle" and "alternative families", and later, as a Peruvian Bishop, he opposed government "gender ideology" in schools.

Pope Leo's chosen papal name deliberately references Pope Leo XIII, whose 1891 open letter *Rerum Novarum* addressed workers' rights, establishing a foundational text for modern Catholic social teaching. Robert Prevost earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Villanova University in 1977, later achieving a Doctorate in Canon Law from Rome's Angelicum with a thesis on "The Role of the Local Prior in the Order of Saint Augustine". He was praised for direct pastoral engagement, such as founding a new parish for St. Rita in a poor district of Trujillo, Peru, and personally delivering aid to flood victims in Chiclayo.

While he was the Augustinian Provincial Prior in Chicago around 1999-2001, Robert Prevost approved James Ray, a priest accused of abuse, residing in a priory near a school, a decision later criticised by Cardinal Blase Cupich of Chicago. During his 2022 episcopacy in Chiclayo, Peru, complaints against priests led to accusations of mishandling by victim advocates group 'SNAP', despite diocesan assertions that protocols were followed and a subsequent Vatican official's statement that no cover-up occurred.

Pope Leo ascends to the papacy as Donald Trump, who offered congratulations on his election, is well into his turbulent second U.S. presidential term, and as the Catholic Church, particularly in the U.S., experiences profound internal divisions.

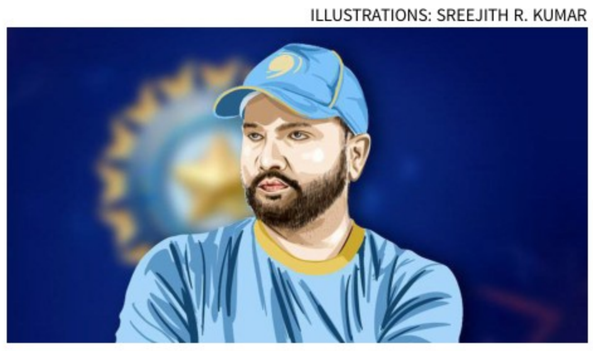
The stylist with a bat

Rohit Sharma

Having led India to titles in the 2024 ICC Twenty20 World Cup and this year's Champions Trophy, besides excelling for the Mumbai Indians, the cricketer's legacy is set in stone

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

ILLUSTRATIONS: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



January is associated with fresh beginnings and cliched New Year resolutions. But as this year's January 2nd waned at the historic Sydney Cricket Ground, there was a sense of an ending.

The Indian cricket team was preparing for the fifth Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. Trailing 1-2, Rohit Sharma's men needed to stage a comeback. However, skipper Rohit himself was not a certainty in the playing eleven and coach Gautam Gambhir refused to offer any clarity.

Sports writers peered hard. Clues were gleaned from Rohit's body language. Is he glum? Is he laughing? When the Test commenced, Rohit had dropped himself and Jasprit Bumrah led. India lost that game. Meanwhile, the speculations over Rohit's career in cricket's longest format continued. Would this be his full stop in Test whites?

The answer to this question finally blew in the wind on May 7 when the Mumbaikar announced his Test retirement through an Instagram story. He did clarify, though, that he would continue to play ODIs. Rohit had earlier bowed out of T20Is too.

At 38, an extended ODI career may look a touch difficult but he has been his own man ever since whispers about his prodigal talent did the rounds in the Mumbai maidans almost two decades ago. Batting at its most elemental form is about lining up the delivery and responding. Rohit is one of those rare batters, who seemed to have that extra second while dealing with the red cherry in Tests and the white ball in limited overs cricket.

There was an ease to the manner in which he picked his runs. This was more poetry at work rather than dull prose, even if at times he could lash out those muscular sixes. 'He makes it look easy', was the general refrain but as David Gower, the aesthetic high-priest of batting, said once, there is a lot of hardwork lost in descriptive terms like 'lazy elegance'.

As a teenager, he had to grapple with crowded suburban trains while carrying his heavy cricket kitbag to the grounds in south Mumbai. He had to deal with the historical pressures that a batter has to cope with in a metropolis that has produced Sunil Gavaskar, Dilip Vengsarkar and Sachin Tendulkar.

There were cautionary tales too like the one involving Vinod Kambli, a glorious talent lost to the pitfalls of fame. Rohit, though, remained grounded, and by 2007, was part of the Indian limited-overs squad and was a member of the team that won the ICC World T20 the same year.

Test performance

If Rohit the batter in ODIs and T20s looked set for the long haul, the same individual seemed plagued with bad luck when it came to Tests. Set to make a Test debut in 2010, he picked up a freak injury. Eventually, he found his way back in 2013, and the West Indians felt the heat of his bat at Kolkata's Eden Gardens.

Rohit's 177 on debut seemed to be a promise about things to come. But as his career evolved, it was obvious that he was cut out for greatness in ODIs, where he scored double hundreds for fun, while in Tests, he had an identity crisis. Shuffled across slots, dropped at times, it took a while for him to stabilise while Virat Kohli, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane marched past him.

The tipping point was when coach Ravi Shastri and captain Kohli made him open in Tests. Rohit prospered despite reservations in many quarters over his flamboyant style not being suited to Tests. He coated his aggression with a strong defensive technique, and the runs flowed.

The twilight phase, though, was terrible. A poor yield against Bangladesh, New Zealand and Australia, meant that Rohit had to make a choice. For now, he is banking on ODIs, a format he dominates, both as a batter and as a captain.

Still, to make 4,301 runs in 67 Tests, while largely opening, is a good statistic. Having led India to titles in the 2024 ICC Twenty20 World Cup and this year's Champions Trophy, besides excelling for the Mumbai Indians, Rohit's legacy is set in stone. Yet, he could have flourished more in Tests.

DEIR AL-BALAH

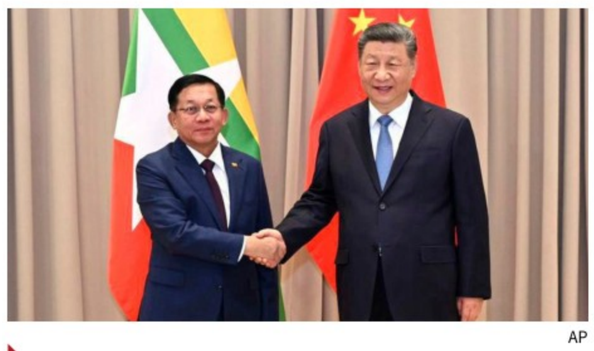
Three children among 23 killed in Israeli strikes across the Gaza Strip

AFP

Israeli airstrikes overnight and into Saturday killed at least 23 in Gaza, including three children and their parents whose tent was bombed in Gaza City. The bombardment continued as international outcry grows over Israeli plans to control aid distribution as Israel's blockade on the territory of over 2 million is in its third month. AP

BANGKOK

Myanmar junta chief meets Chinese President for first time

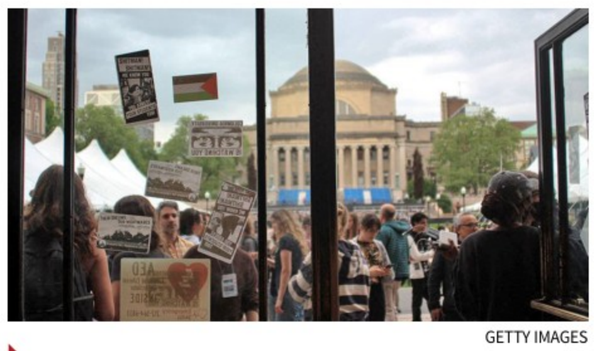


AP

Myanmar's junta chief Min Aung Hlaing met China's President Xi Jinping on Saturday for the first time since seizing power. Mr. Min met Mr. Xi in Moscow on the sidelines of Russia's Victory Day celebrations on Friday and thanked China for its humanitarian assistance following a 7.7-magnitude earthquake in March. AFP

NEW YORK

Columbia University suspends 65 students over library occupation



GETTY IMAGES

Columbia University suspended more than 65 students for their role in a pro-Palestinian demonstration that forced the shutdown of the main campus library. The students were placed on interim suspension and will be prohibited from taking their final exams or entering campus except to access their dormitories. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

Federal judge orders temporary halt to Trump's mass layoff plans

AP

The Trump administration must temporarily halt efforts to implement a February 26 executive order that directed government agencies to prepare for large-scale staffing cuts, a federal judge said. U.S. District Judge Susan Illston blocked large-scale mass layoffs known as "reductions in force" for 14 days. REUTERS

Senior U.S., Chinese officials meet in Geneva to 'de-escalate' trade war

Donald Trump's tariffs on the Asian manufacturing giant since the start of the year currently total 145%, with cumulative U.S. duties on some Chinese goods reaching a staggering 245%; in retaliation, Beijing has slapped 125% levies on U.S. goods

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Senior U.S. and Chinese officials were meeting in Geneva on Saturday in a bid to de-escalate a trade war sparked by President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff roll-out and further fuelled by Beijing's robust retaliation.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer were conferring with Chinese Vice-Premier He Lifeng in the first such talks between the world's two largest economies since Mr. Trump slapped steep new levies on China last month.

Middle ground: A car with U.S. Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent arrives at the residence of the Swiss envoy to the UN in Geneva. AFP

The closed-door discussions began at mid-morning on Saturday and were due to continue on Sunday at the residence of the Swiss Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva.

And after a break at around lunchtime, the delegations returned to the discrete villa with sky blue shutters near a large parc on the left bank of Lake Geneva.

Tariffs imposed by Mr. Trump on the Asian manufacturing giant since the start of the year currently total 145%, with cumulative U.S. duties on some Chinese goods reaching a staggering 245%.

In retaliation, China slapped 125% levies on U.S. goods, cementing what appears a near trade embargo between the world's two largest economies.

Mr. Trump signalled on Friday that he might lower the sky-high tariffs on Chinese imports, taking to social media to suggest that an "80% Tariff on China seems right!".

"The President would like to work it out with China.... He would like to de-escalate the situation," U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told *Fox News* on Friday.

Reciprocation needed

Mr. Trump's press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, clarified that the U.S. would not lower tariffs unilaterally, adding that China would need to make concessions as well.

In any case, a move to that level would be a symbolic gesture, since the tariffs would remain prohibitively steep.

Beijing has insisted the United States must lift tariffs first and vowed to defend its interests.

Ukraine's allies press Russia to accept a 30-day ceasefire

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Kyiv's allies pressed Russia on Saturday to accept a 30-day unconditional ceasefire in Ukraine from Monday, threatening Moscow with coordinated sanctions if it did not agree to the demand. The ultimatum came during a joint press conference in Kyiv attended by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the leaders of France, Germany, the UK. .and Poland. The proposal united allies including the United States, they said.

The unprecedented visit was the first time the leaders of the four European nations had made a joint trip to Ukraine.

"We have just now... decided to support a ceasefire which will begin next Monday, without any preconditions," France's Emmanuel Macron said.

United front: (from left) Emmanuel Macron, Keir Starmer and Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a memorial for soldiers in Kyiv. AFP

Around 20 member countries of the "coalition of the willing" supporting Ukraine had held a video-conference with Mr. Macron, German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Mr. Zelenskyy.

"In the event of a violation of this ceasefire, we have agreed that massive sanctions will be prepared and coordinated between Europeans and Americans," Mr. Macron said.

The U.S. and Ukraine have been pushing for a similar proposal, which Russia has not accepted.

At least 33 killed in Sudan in attacks blamed on the RSF

Agence France-Presse
PORT SUDAN

At least 33 people have been killed in Sudan in attacks blamed on the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, at war with the Army since April 2023, first responders said on Saturday.

The attacks came after six straight days of RSF drone strikes on the Army-led government's wartime capital Port Sudan damaged key infrastructure including the power grid and the country's last operational civilian airport.

On Friday evening, at least 14 members of the same family were killed in an air strike on a displacement camp in the vast western region of Darfur, a rescue group said, blaming the paramilitaries.

The Abu Shouk camp "was the target of intense bombardment by the Rapid Support Forces on Friday evening".

Mounting pressure: The strikes came after six straight days of RSF drone strikes on the Army's wartime capital of Port Sudan. AFP

The camp near El-Fasher, the last State capital in Darfur still out of the RSF's control, is plagued by famine, according to the UN.

On Saturday, an RSF strike on a prison in the army-controlled southern city of El-Obeid killed at least 19 people and wounded 45, a medical source said.

Elsewhere on Saturday, army warplanes struck RSF positions in the Darfur cities of Nyala and El-Geneina, destroying arms depots and military equipment.

This week, the RSF said it had taken the strategic town of En Nahud in West Kordofan, a key Army supply line to Darfur.

Taliban arrest 14 persons for playing music and singing

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Taliban authorities have arrested 14 persons in northern Afghanistan for playing musical instruments and singing, activities they restricted since taking power, the provincial police said on Saturday.

The Taliban government has steadily imposed laws and regulations that reflect their austere vision of Islamic law since seizing power in 2021.

The police said that on Thursday night in the capital of northern Takhar province "fourteen individuals... took advantage of the nighttime to gather in a residential house where they were playing musical instruments and singing songs, which caused disturbance to the public".

Bangladesh bans activities of deposed PM Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

Bangladesh has decided to ban all activities of the ruling Awami League, including its online presence, under the Anti-Terrorism Act until ongoing trials for alleged war crimes of the party and its leaders are concluded.

Special meeting

The decision was made on Saturday at a special meeting of the Advisory Council of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government in Bangladesh.

Bangladeshis celebrate after the interim government banned all activities of the Awami League in Dhaka on Saturday. AFP

The council also approved an amendment to the International Crimes Tribunal Act, allowing the tribunal to penalise political parties, their affiliated organisations, and supporters.

According to the resolution adopted in the meeting, the ban is intended to safeguard national security and sovereignty, ensure the protection of leaders and activists of the July Movement.

It also seeks to guarantee the safety of plaintiffs and witnesses associated with the International Crimes Tribunal.

An official notification regarding the ban will be issued on the next working day.

The Advisory Council also resolved to finalise and publish the July Declaration within the next 30 working days.

SETBACK

Gukesh suffers shock defeat; Praggnanandhaa draws

FILE PHOTO

World champion D. Gukesh suffered a shock loss to Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the fourth round of the Superbet Classic in Bucharest. On a day when R. Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with local hope Deac Bogdan-Daniel, USA's Levon Aronian was the only other winner, beating Jan Krzysztof Duda of Poland.

SURPRISE ELEMENT

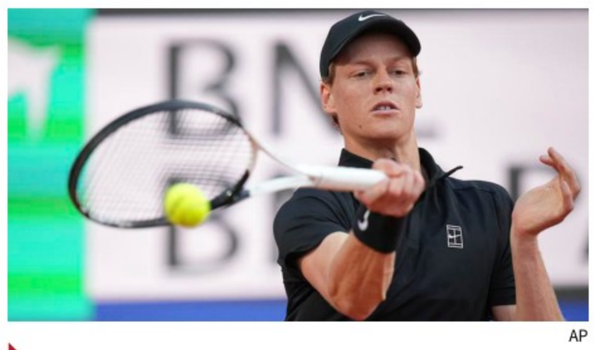
UAE women retire out all 10 batters in big victory over Qatar

ICC

In a bizarre turn of events, UAE, after scoring 192 from its first 16 overs, decided to retire out its entire batting line-up under overcast conditions to save time in the Women's T20 World Cup Asia Qualifier against Qatar in Bangkok. The move paid off as Esha Oza's side bundled out Qatar for 29 for a mammoth victory.

MIXED FORTUNES

Sinner makes a winning return; Swiatek crashes out



AP

Jannik Sinner returned to action from a contested doping ban with a straight-set win over Argentina's Mariano Navone in the Italian Open in Rome on Saturday. The Italian won 6-3, 6-4. In the women's section, Iga Swiatek was dumped out after the reigning champion suffered a shock 6-1, 7-5 defeat at the hands of Danielle Collins.

SUPER FAST

Marc Marquez claims French MotoGP sprint race

REUTERS

Marc Marquez won the French MotoGP sprint race from brother Alex at Le Mans on Saturday. The Ducati factory rider extending his perfect record in sprints in 2025 to six from six. Rookie Fermin Aldeguer, Alex Marquez's Gresini teammate, claimed his first sprint podium in third.

IPL likely to resume before next weekend

The decision will be formalised by the Governing Council provided it gets the Centre's nod; the BCCI is hoping to stage remaining matches at select venues; plans to hold final before May 31

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The Indian Premier League (IPL) is likely to resume before the next weekend, at select venues in India, based on the government clearance. The decision is likely to be formalised by the IPL Governing Council in the next couple of days, provided it gets the government's nod.

Multiple members of various IPL franchise contingents confirmed to *The Hindu* that they have been notified about resumption "on Thursday or Friday."

A BCCI official confirmed on anonymity that the Board, if it gets the Central government go-ahead, will try to finish the IPL before the month-end.

According to the original fixtures, Kolkata was scheduled to host the final on May 25. Should the 'understanding' between India and Pakistan – violated within hours of its announcement – be restored, the BCCI is hoping to stage the remaining 17 matches at select venues in India.

On Friday, the Board announced a week-long suspension due to the tension on the border.

The BCCI has shortlisted the three southern IPL home bases – Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad – to stage the bulk of the 17 remaining matches, including the one between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals that was called off at Dharamshala on Thursday night due to security reasons. If required, either Mumbai or Ahmedabad may host the playoff games.

The final is likely to be played before May 31, thus ensuring most World Test Championship (WTC) final-bound cricketers will get enough time to join their respective team preparations.

Australia will take on South Africa in the WTC final at Lord's from June 11.

The challenge for the BCCI will be to convince Cricket Australia and Cricket South Africa to extend the stay of the eligible WTC final stars. While some of the overseas cricketers, support staff members and broadcast members boarded flights for their respective homes, some of them were scheduled to leave later.

The Governing Council will also have to find a way out of the Thursday night muddle. Despite Punjab Kings' game against Delhi Capitals being called off midway through the first innings, it has not been accounted for in the points table so far.

The BCCI is understood to have been in favour of replaying the game.

Kings may insist on continuing the game from where it was halted at, considering the sensational start it got from its opening pair Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh.

Dazzling duo: Kings openers Prabhsimran and Priyansh put on a show against Capitals before the match was called off. R.V. MOORTHY

Indian women bank on batting firepower in the summit clash

TRI-SERIES

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

The Indian women's team will bank on its smooth-functioning batting line-up to ward off a tricky Sri Lanka and win the ODI tri-series final here on Sunday.

India's lone defeat in the tournament came at the hands of the Lankans, but Harmanpreet Kaur's side has been the most dominant team, topping the points table with three wins from four matches.

Sri Lanka finished second with two wins and as many losses while South Africa crashed out with only one win in four games.

Winning this contest will also be paramount for both India and Sri Lanka, as it would help them in the build-up to the ODI World Cup later this year.

In fine nick

The primary reason behind India's fine run in the tournament has been its excellent batting effort. With 201 runs at an average of 67, including a century (123) against South Africa, Jemimah Rodrigues has been India's best batter.

Pratika Rawal (164), Smriti Mandhana (148) and Deepti Sharma (126) too have proved to be vital cogs with timely contributions.

Deepti's 93 consolidated India's position against South Africa in a league match, but it was also symbolic of the stability in its lower-order. Harmanpreet hasn't had a single fifty so far and often failed to convert the starts. However, scores of 28, 30 and 41 not out in the last three matches indicate a big knock could be around the corner.

Sneh Rana has been the best bowler in the competition taking 11 wickets which included a five-wicket haul against South Africa.

On its part, Sri Lanka will hope star batter Harshitha Samarawickrama continues to fire against India in key clashes as her 53 played a pivotal role in the host's win in a league match.

The 26-year-old Harshitha will also draw confidence from her match-winning 69 not out against India in the T20 Asia Cup final last year, which had powered the Islanders to an eight-wicket triumph.

With two fifties and 177 runs in four matches, the left-hander has been Sri Lanka's best batter in this series.

The home captain and key all-rounder Chamari Athapaththu, with 88 runs and five wickets in four matches, hasn't been at her best so far. But her contributions in the summit clash could influence the outcome.

Dewmi Vihanga (nine wickets) has had the strongest of impacts in the competition among the Lankan bowlers, but the Indian batters have negated her well so far.

On a roll: Jemimah has been India's best batter in the tournament. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

The teams (from):
Sri Lanka: Vishmi Gunaratne, Hansima Karunaratne, Hasini Perera, Piumi Wathsala, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Anushka Sanjeewani (wk), Nilakshika Silva, Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Kavisha Dilhari, Manudi Nanayakkara, Rashmika Sewwandi, Dewmi Vihanga, Inoshi Priyadarshini, Achini Kalasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Malki Madara, Inoka Ranaweera.
India: Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, Harleen Deol, Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Arundhati Reddy, Sneh Rana, Nallapureddy Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Amanjot Kaur, Tejal Hasabnis, Shuchi Upadhyay.
Match starts at 10 a.m. IST

Karthikeyan, Iniyan post victories

Press Trust of India
AL AIN (UAE)

Indian Grandmasters Murali Karthikeyan and P. Iniyan, and Iranian Bardiya Daneshvar shared the lead with 3.5 points after the end of the fourth round of the Asian Individual Chess Championship here on Saturday.

India's Pranav Anand held top-seeded compatriot Nihal Sarin to a draw. Sarin has accumulated three points.

Iniyan got the better of Meng Yihan while Iranian Sina Mohaved was no match for Karthikeyan.

In the women's section, Mungunzul Bat-Erdene of Mongolia and Afruza Khamdanova of Uzbekistan emerged as joint leaders with a perfect score of four points.

Srija Seshadri is the best performing Indian in this section with 3.5 points to her kitty.

A bunch of Indian women including National champion P.V. Nandhidhaa, Vantika Agrawal and Rakshitta Ravi have three points.

Big result: Watkins celebrates with Ramsay after scoring Aston Villa's winner. REUTERS

City held, wins for Villa, Brentford & Brighton

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Manchester City was held goalless by Premier League basement club Southampton on Saturday, denting its chances of a top-five finish even as Aston Villa, Brentford, and Brighton kept up their push for European qualification with wins on the road.

The results: Premier League: Southampton 0 drew with Manchester City 0; Fulham 1 (Jimenez 17) lost to Everton 3 (Mykolenko 45+3, Keane 70, Beto 73); Ipswich 0 lost to Brentford 1 (Schade 18); Wolves 0 lost to Brighton 2 (Welbeck 28-pen, Gruda 85); Bournemouth 0 lost to Aston Villa 1 (Watkins 45+6).
Serie A: Como 3 (Caqueret 40, Strefezza 45+2, Cutrone 77) bt Cagliari 1 (Adopo 22); Lazio 1 (Vecino 90+6) drew with Juventus 1 (Kolo Muani 51).
Bundesliga: Werder Bremen 0 drew with RB Leipzig 0; Union Berlin 0 lost to Heidenheim 3 (Beck 12, 73, Schoeppner 56); Bochum 1 (de Wit 84) lsot to Mainz 4 (Amiri 45+3, Mwene 53, Burkardt 73, Nebel 90+3); Holstein Kiel 1 (Rosenboom 24) lost to SC Freiburg 2 (Manzambi 45+2, Hoeler 58).
On Friday: Serie A: AC Milan 3 (Gimenez 73, 90+2, Pulisic 78) bt Bologna 1 (Orsolini 49).
Bundesliga: Wolfsburg 2 (Ostigard 1-og, Wind 81) drew with Hoffenheim 2 (Kaderabek 34, Buelter 84).

Animesh, David clinch gold medals in UAE GP

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

National record-holder Animesh Kujur won the 200m comfortably while P. David Solomon took the men's long jump title in the UAE Athletics Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour bronze-level event, in Dubai on Friday.

Animesh's time, 20.45s, is the fastest by an Indian in an international meet while long jumper David, the recent Federation Nationals champion, had a best of 7.78m.

Disappointment

India also won the men's 4x100m relay clocking 38.76s, but there was a bit of a disappointment in the 100m with National record-holder Gurindervir Singh (10.41s) and Manikanta Hoblidhar (10.52) finishing eighth and 12th.

Gurvinder holds the national record with 10.20s while Manikanta is the third fastest in India's all-time list with 10.22.

Asian silver medallist Shaili Singh (6.43m) took the women's long jump silver while Asian Games silver medallist Ancy Sojan (6.33) won the bronze.

Select results (events which feature Indians): Men: 100m (placings after finals 1 & 2): 1. Ali Al Balooshi (Oma) 10.19s, 8. Gurindervir Singh (Ind) 10.41, 10. T.A. Tamilarasu (Ind) 10.44, 12. Manikanta Hoblidhar (Ind) 10.52.
200m: 1. Animesh Kujur (Ind) 20.45s, 5. Amlan Borgohain (Ind) 21.08.
400m (finals 1 & 2 combined): 1. Suleiman Abdirahman (UAE) 45.66s, 2. Mohamed Sinan (Ind) 46.67, 14. Juswin George Varghese (Ind) 52.20.
Long jump: 1. David Solomon (Ind) 7.78m.
4x100m relay: 1. India (38.76s), 3. India (39.30).
Women: 400m (placings after finals 1 & 2): 1. Aminat Kamarudeen (UAE) 53.44s, 12. Rachel Elizabeth Sunil (Ind) 1:08.48, 3. Shriya Sarin (Ind) 1:08.66.
Long jump: 1. Esraa Owis (Egy) 6.67m, 2. Shaili Singh (Ind) 6.44, 3. Ancy Sojan (Ind) 6.33, 4. Moumita Mondal (Ind) 6.32, 7. Deepanshi Singh & Kusuma Ravada (both Ind) 6.03.
Triple jump: 1. Andreea Talos (Rou) 13.33m, 3. Poorva Sawant (Ind) 13.09, 5. Niharika Vashisht (Ind) 13.05.
Hammer: 1. Bianca Ghelber (Rou) 72.18m, 6 Harshita Sehrawat (Ind) 61.39.

Animesh won 200m with ease. FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

No competition or training abroad without AFI nod

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

With a plan to monitor its athletes closely, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has now made it clear that they cannot compete or train abroad without its clearance.

The AFI will also take action against athletes who compete in international meets without seeking its permission and their results in these meets will not be considered.

"The performance of the athletes will be invalid for record books if they don't take mandatory approval of the AFI for international exposure," said AFI president Bahadur Singh Sagoo.

"To safeguard the interest of athletes, the AFI has set a specific time period to grant permission to train and compete abroad. Disciplinary action will be taken against those athletes who don't take prior permission."

The AFI has also explained, in a circular, that the new rules have been introduced to ensure that "representation is appropriate and aligns with India's athletics calendar, that events meet quality and safety standards, that there is no scheduling conflicts with national commitments or trials and to keep watch on athletes to ensure they are not using any hideouts for doping".

Athletes are to apply at least 30 days before the competition date and must include details of the event, proof of invitation and recommendation letter from their institution, academy or department.

The decision – approval or rejection – will be communicated in writing within one week and in case, the AFI fails to do this, the permission shall be deemed granted, says the AFI circular.

▼ Asian silver medallist Shaili Singh (6.43m) took the women's long jump silver while Asian Games silver medallist Ancy Sojan (6.33) won the bronze

▼ The performance of the athletes will be invalid for record books if they don't take mandatory approval of the AFI for international exposure

INBRIEF

Alonso has 'every door open': Real Madrid's Ancelotti

Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso has been heavily linked with replacing Carlo Ancelotti at Real Madrid and the veteran manager admitted on Saturday "every door" is open to the Spaniard. "I read that, that he's leaving Bayer Leverkusen, where he has done a fantastic job," Ancelotti told a news conference. "He has every door open to him because he's shown he is one of the best coaches in the world."

Chotrani, Abhay and Anahat advance in World squash

It was a good day for Indians in the first round of the World squash championships in Chicago on Friday as Veer Chotrani, Abhay Singh, and Anahat Singh, all defeated higher-ranked players. However, S. Velavan lost to reigning World champion and third seed Diego Elias of Peru in four games.

The results, first round: Men: Veer Chotrani bt Declan James (Eng) 11-9, 9-11, 12-10, 16-14; Ramit Tandon bt Ryunosuke Tsukue (Jpn) 10-12, 11-7, 13-11, 11-7; Abhay Singh bt Nicolas Mueller (Sui) 11-7, 2-11, 11-7, 11-6; Diego Elias (Per) bt S. Velavan Senthilkumar 7-11, 11-7, 11-5, 11-3.
Women: Anahat Singh bt Marina Stefanoni (USA) 10-12, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6.

Kirti and Rajeshwari miss the women's trap final

Kirti Gupta and Rajeshwari Kumari shot 114 and missed the women's trap final by three points in the shotgun World Cup in Nicosia on Saturday. In men's trap, Kynan Chenai shot 117 and was placed 40th. Shardul Vihan (113) and Bhowneesh Mendiratta (113) were 70th and 77th respectively.

The results: Trap: Women: 1. Lada Denisova (AIN) 37 (120); 2. Carey Garrison (USA) 36 (117); 3. Alessandra Perilli (SMR) 24 (118); 16. Kirti Gupta 114; 18. Rajeshwari Kumari 114; 29. Sabeera Harris 112.

Ayush, Unnati fail to clear semis hurdle at Taipei Open

Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda ended their impressive runs with semifinal finishes in the men's and women's singles respectively, ending India's campaign at the $240,000 BWF Taipei Open Super 300 on Saturday.

The results (semifinals): Men: Chou Tien Chen bt Ayush Shetty 21-18, 21-17.
Women: Tomoka Miyazaki bt Unnati Hooda 21-19, 21-11.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's ODI tri-series. (final): Sri Lanka vs India, FanCode, 10 a.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 4.30, 6.45 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7, 9 & 11 p.m.

Indian compound archers excel in Shanghai World Cup

Madhura clinches the women's individual gold medal apart from two team podium finishes; Rishabh wins the bronze after a dramatic shoot-off, also plays a key role in the men's squad claiming the top prize

Outstanding: Madhura was instrumental in India bagging three medals, while Rishabh had a hand in two medals wins. GETTY IMAGES

Sports Bureau

Indian compound archers won five medals, including two gold in women's individual and men's team events, at the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai on Saturday.

Twenty-four-year-old Madhura Dhamangaonkar won the women's individual gold apart from claiming a women's team silver, her first international medal, and a mixed team bronze.

Madhura, who made her lone World Cup Stage appearance in Medellin in 2022, overcame Hazal Burun in the semifinals. The Indian displayed her mental strength as she stayed ahead despite the Turkish archer's fightback and recorded a 143-141 win to reach the final.

In the title clash, which swung from side to side, Madhura managed a narrow 139-138 victory over American Carson Krahe to pick up her maiden gold medal.

"I've improved a lot of things. I have been working on my mental strength and my shooting skills," Madhura told World Archery.

Her personal coach Pravin Sawant saw a bright future for Madhura, who hails from Amravati, Maharashtra. "After she joined our academy two years back, we worked on technical, equipment and mental aspects of her game. Bigger events, such as the World championships and the Olympics, are coming up. She has a long way to go," Sawant of Drushti Archery Academy, Satara, told *The Hindu*.

Rishabh Yadav, meanwhile, secured an individual bronze after a close match besides contributing in the men's team gold medal victory.

The results: Compound: Individual: Men: Rishabh Yadav lost to Mike Schloesser (Ned) 149-143 (29-30, 30-27, 30-28, 30-29, 30-29) (semifinal), bt Kim Jongho (Kor) 145-145 (28,27, 28-29, 29-30, 30-29, 30-30, shoot-off: 10*-10, closer to centre) (bronze medal match).
Women: Madhura Dhamangaonkar bt Hazal Burun (Tur) 143-141 (30-27, 30-29, 28-29, 28-29, 27-27) (semifinal), bt Carson Krahe (USA) 139-138 (30-26, 25-29, 26-30, 29-25, 29-28) (gold medal match).
Team: Men: India (Abhishek Verma, Rishabh, Ojas Deotale) bt Mexico (Sebastian Garcia, Rodrigo Gonzalez, Luis Lezama) 232-228 (59-57, 56-58, 58-57, 59-56) (gold medal match).
Women: Mexico (Andrea Becerra, Adriana Castillo, Mariana Bernal) bt India (Madhura, V. Jyothi Surekha, Chikitha Taniparthi) 234-222 (58-56, 59-54, 59-56, 58-56) (gold medal match).
Mixed: India (Madhura, Abhishek) bt Malaysia (Fatin Salleh, Mohd. Juwaidi Mazuki) 144-142 (35-37, 37-36, 39-33, 33-36) (bronze medal match).

Karan makes singles final, wins doubles title with Javia

Sports Bureau

Karan Singh defeated Prajwal Dev 6-4, 6-4 in the semifinals of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Tehran on Saturday. In the final, top seed Karan will be challenged by qualifier Ali Yazdani of Iran.

Karan won the doubles title with Dev Javia with a 12-10 victory in the super tie-breaker against Ivan Denisov and Kabir Hans.

It was the second career doubles title for the 21-year-old Karan. For Javia, it was the third doubles title of the season and fifth of his career. The 23-year-old Javia had won two titles earlier this season with Chirag Duhan.

The results: $30,000 ITF men, Baotou, China: Semifinals: Yan Bai (Chn) bt S. Mukund 6-4, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF men, Tehran: Semifinals: Karan Singh bt Prajwal Dev 6-4, 6-4; **Doubles: Final:** Dev Javia & Karan bt Ivan Denisov & Kabir Hans 3-6, 6-1, [12-10].
$40,000 ITF women, Indian Harbour Beach, USA: Quarterfinals: Riya Bhatia bt Alicia Linana (Esp) 2-6, 6-4 (retired).
$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Doubles: Semifinals: Annika Penickova & Kristina Penickova (USA) bt Aaddi Gupta & Aurora Urso (Ita) 6-4, 6-2.

Italy and Canada sparkle in mixed 4x100m relay's global debut

ATHLETICS

Agencies
GUANGZHOU

Italy, Canada and Jamaica reached the mixed 4x100 metres relay final in the event's global debut while heavyweights the United States experienced mixed fortunes on a dramatic opening day at the World Athletics Relays on Saturday.

Victory in 41.15 seconds in the first heat amid challenging conditions in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou following a spell of rain earned the Italians a place in the medal round to be held on Sunday.

They will be joined by France, who finished second in 41.28 seconds, while pre-race favourites the US saw their hopes of advancing fade when Jada Mowatt and Kendal Williams botched their baton exchange during the second changeover.

Racing away: De Grasse set the pace for Canada in the heats of the men's 4x100 metres relay. REUTERS

Jamaica's mixed sprint quartet clocked 41.04 seconds to edge out Britain by a hundredth of a second in the next heat and they could deploy three-times Olympic champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and former world champion Yohan Blake in the final.

Scorching pace

Canada crossed the line in a scorching 40.90 seconds to second-placed Australia's 41.15 seconds in the third heat to send out a warning to their rivals.

The Americans made up for their error by easing into the mixed 4x400m final, thereby also sealing their spot in the event at the world championships tin Tokyo in September.

The world record-holders will be joined in the Guangzhou final by Belgium, Australia, Ireland, Britain and South Africa as well as the two fastest non-automatic qualifiers Kenya and Poland.

Spain went quickest in the women's 4x100m relay ahead of Jamaica and Belgium, clocking 42.18 seconds, while South Africa dominated the men's event with Akani Simbine anchoring his team to a joint world leading time of 37.84 seconds.

Japan, who were assured of a place in the worlds as hosts, matched South Africa's effort in their heat to finish in front of Olympic champions Canada.

The US women's team shrugged off the increasingly damp conditions to top the timings in the 4x400m race while the men's quartet were third in their heat and will have to wait until Sunday to book their spot in the worlds.

South Africa's men were quickest again in that event with a world leading time of exactly three minutes.

Indian teams miss out

The Indian men's and mixed 4x400m teams missed out on direct qualification for the Tokyo World Championships later this year, finishing fifth in their respective heats on the first day of the World Athletics Relays here on Saturday.

Both teams, however, will get another chance to make the cut for the World Championships (September 13-21) on the concluding day of the meet on Sunday.

The Indian mixed 4x400m quartet of Jay Kumar, Sneha Kolleri, Dharamveer Choudhary and Rupal Chaudhary clocked 3 minutes, 16.85 seconds to finish fifth in the seven-team heat number three on a rain-affected track.

Flick's Barcelona must show 'hunger' in crunch LaLiga Clasico to make up for European hurt

FOOTBALL

Agency France-Presse
BARCELONA

For weeks it has seemed a near-certainty that Barcelona will win LaLiga but Real Madrid has clung on to its title defence hopes by its fingertips and arrives at Sunday's Clasico within reach of the Catalans.

After Hansi Flick's side suffered an agonising extra-time defeat to Inter Milan in the Champions League semifinals on Tuesday, it needs to steady itself quickly to stop its season from crumbling.

Barcelona, which beat Real in the Copa del Rey and Spanish Super Cup finals, leads Los Blancos by four points with four matches remaining.

A home defeat on Sunday at the Olympic Stadium would not be the death knell for its title bid but would ramp up the pressure on Flick's young, relatively inexperienced charges.

Attacking threat: It is no secret that Yamal and Raphinha are capable of hurting Real the most. AFP

"(We) have to go on, we have five days to prepare and we want to win it," said the German coach after the loss in Milan in the Champions League.

"(This defeat) must wake up the hunger to win the title, this is important for me."

Barcelona's hunger to win trophies has revealed itself in statistics.

The Catalans have completed the most sprints of any team in LaLiga this season and covered the fifth most distance – by contrast, Real has run the least and have the third fewest sprints.

> This year they can't handle us. While I'm winning, they can't say anything. When they beat me, they can
>
> **YAMAL,** amping up the rivalry

However Real has been resting up since its win over Celta Vigo in LaLiga last weekend, while Barcelona – after its semifinal defeat over 120 minutes by Inter – was drained.

Still recomposing from the Inter defeat, Barcelona cancelled media commitments ahead of the Clasico.

Flick is hoping to bring left-back Alejandro Balde back into the line up after injury, while Robert Lewandowski made his return against Inter too, although he did not appear fully fit.

Barcelona's best player over the two legs against Inter was teenager Lamine Yamal.

The winger has the most assists in LaLiga with 12 and is the emblem of Flick's exciting young side.

Barcelona have faced Real Madrid three times this season and won on each occasion, and although Yamal has only scored two of the 12 goals netted by his side, he has been his side's most dynamic threat against Los Blancos.

Yamal highlighted Madrid's inability to defeat Barca this season after the Copa del Rey final in April.

"This year they can't handle us," he said, going on to add more fuel to the fire during his press conference ahead of the first leg of the Inter Milan semifinal.

"While I'm winning, they can't say anything," said Yamal. "When they beat me, they can."

The teenager is hoping to avoid a swiftly-served slice of humble pie, as Barca seek to gorge on silverware instead.

Clasico the last chance saloon for Ancelotti's Real Madrid

Agence France-Presse
BARCELONA

Real Madrid's season appeared disastrous a few weeks ago but if Carlo Ancelotti's side can finally beat Barcelona in Sunday's LaLiga Clasico, its title defence will be resuscitated.

Madrid was left licking its wounds after a Champions League quarterfinal thrashing by Arsenal, and coach Ancelotti is poised to depart at the end of the season, but it could yet be with a major trophy in his hands.

The nature of Real's rivalry with Barcelona means winning LaLiga could either feel great or underwhelming, depending on how its nemesis fares in Europe.

With Barcelona's quadruple dream crushed by Inter, should Real defend its title it could even classify its season as a success.

To do that Real must manage something it has not been able to pull off all season – winning a Clasico.

Tough ask: Real coach Ancelotti will have to find a way for his star forwards to deliver against Barcelona. AP

The teams have faced off three times and Barcelona triumphed on each occasion.

Barcelona netted 12 goals across the four games, conceding four, with Hansi Flick's side outplaying Real on each occasion.

However their meeting in Seville in April in the Copa del Rey final was the closest Ancelotti's team has come.

Real took the game to extra-time and its Italian coach discovered a set-up which allowed his team to take Barca to the wire.

Operating in the second half with Vinicius Junior and Kylian Mbappe as the forwards, and Rodrygo Goes substituted, Real found the balance it has badly lacked at times this season.

"The last match was competitive, we were very close to winning and I don't think we have to invent a lot of new things (tactically)," said Ancelotti.